想いの欠片 2

竹宮ジン

JIN TAKEMIYA

OMOINO-KAKERA

白泉社

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Fragments of Love
2
Takemiya Jin

Fragments of Love
Volume 2

Fragments of Love: Sixth Piece ---------- 3p

Fragments of Love: Seventh Piece ---------- 25p

Fragments of Love: Eighth Piece ---------- 47p

Fragments of Love: Ninth Piece ---------- 67p

Fragments of Love: Tenth Piece ---------- 89p

Intermission 1 ---------- 109p

Love & Piece: Not a Substitute ---------- 111p

Love & Piece: Needless ---------- 119p

Love & Piece: The Choice ---------- 129p

Love & Piece: Peridot ---------- 137p

Intermission 2 ---------- 169p

Fragment ---------- 173p

OMOINO-KAKERA

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竹宮ジン
Jin Takemiya

Fragments of Love

6th piece

They love people of their own gender
But one of them is hiding her true feelings from a dear friend
And why is that friend so preoccupied with someone else?

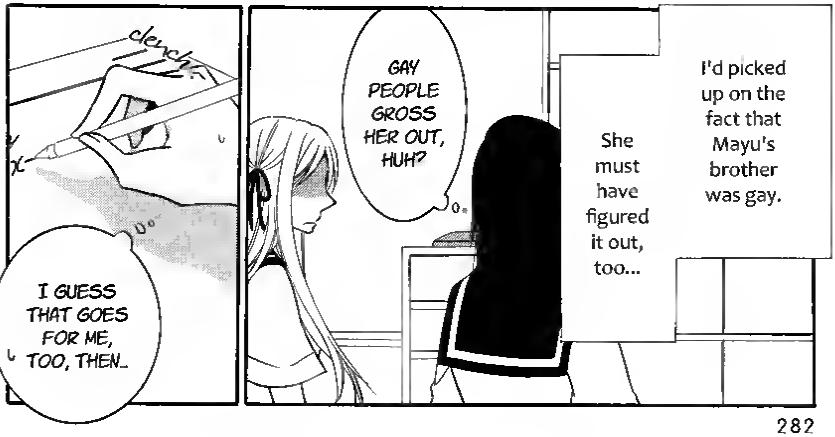
.....
Tsuda-kun took my ribbon!
What's wrong?
6-3
Saki-chaaan!
They pick on girls they like to try and get their attention.
sniffle
Gurk!
Itou!!
Hey, Tsuda!! Give Mayu back her ribbon!!
I think it was around this age that I realized how simple-minded guys can be.
If-
If it bothers you that much, come and get it!!
fwp...
Huh?
I'm Mayu's friend. I can't just abandon her.
You're the one who's butting in where he's not wanted!
Th-
This has nothing to do with you!!
I understand where they're coming from, but their tactics just backfire on them.
And as for me...
GRR...

WHOOSH...
Mission complete!
Okay...
I always protected the girls from boys like that.
Just give us back the ribbon Nicely
JUMP
I-...
You're fast..
Mayu?
But Mayu was special
.....
YUP, HE'S AN IDIOT, ALL RIGHT.
Ugh!
I can't stand Tsuda-kun!!
He picks on me, and he's rude and violent!

I think it was around this time
.....
She was like a princess.
Hehe
You're my prince, Saki-chan.
that I realized I loved her as more than just a friend.
Huh?
You've got a brother complex..
After my brother, of course
HEY, SAKI,
HOW DO YOU SOLVE THIS PROBLEM?
COME ON, YOU SHOULD DO AT LEAST A LITTLE ON YOUR OWN...
HUH?

Oh.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HERE, SAKI-CHAN.
Oh!
THANKS FOR HAVING ME OVER.
.....
ENJOY YOUR-SELF.
Um.
IS SOMETHING GOING ON WITH YOUR BROTHER?
NOPE.
YEAH, THERE'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING GOING ON THERE.
.....

mutter...
Gay people are gross...


clench
I GUESS THAT GOES FOR ME, TOO, THEN...
GAY PEOPLE GROSS HER OUT, HUH?
She must have figured it out, too...
I'd picked up on the fact that Mayu's brother was gay.

I can **never** tell her how I feel about her.

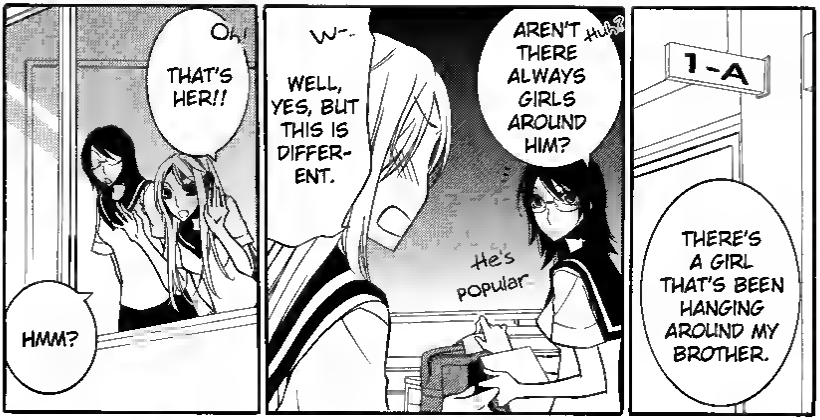
Well,
READY FOR THE NEXT ONE?

TELL ME THE ANSWER.

NO.

NO FAIR!

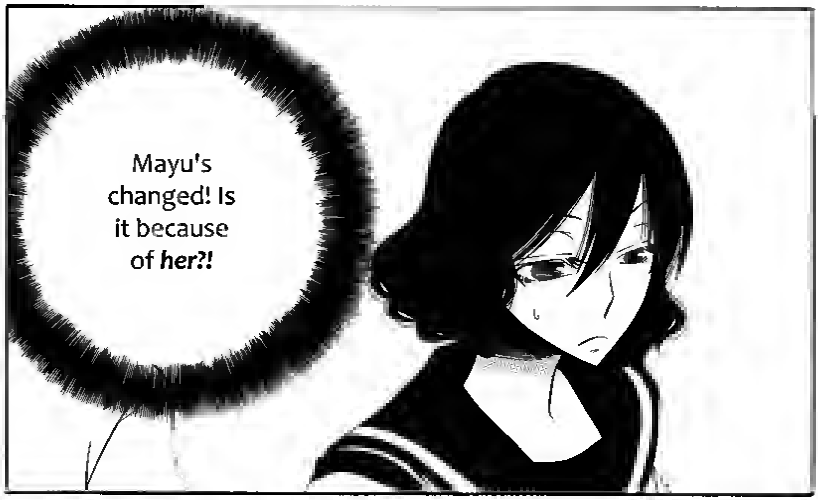
If I can stay best friends with her, that's enough...

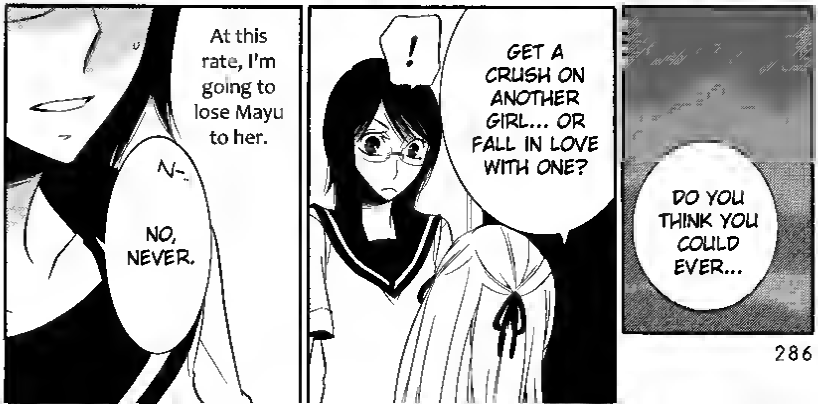


WELL...
gasp
I can't tell Mayu I saw this girl in the gay district...
WHY NOT ?!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HER.
He's too much of an airhead
I DOUBT IT
He's an enemy to women!!
SHE DOESN'T KNOW HIM VERY WELL, SO MAYBE HE'S TRICKING HER INTO THINKING SHE HAS A CHANCE?!
clench
But what...
Hmph
WELL, SHE'S A WOMAN OF ACTION, I'LL GIVE HER THAT MUCH
dash...
I'll go find out more!!
I HAVE TO SAVE HER!!
Huh,?
MAYU ?!

At the time, I had no idea
is stirring deep within my heart?
mutter
Gay people are gross...
that her homo-phobia
would all melt away when she met this girl...

Huh ...?
mutter
It's not fair...


Mayu's changed! Is it because of *her*?!


DO YOU THINK YOU COULD EVER...
!
GET A CRUSH ON ANOTHER GIRL... OR FALL IN LOVE WITH ONE?
At this rate, I'm going to lose Mayu to her.
NO, NEVER.

No... It's not the sort of thing that just happens by coincidence...

GAY PEOPLE *ONLY* FALL IN LOVE WITH PEOPLE OF THEIR OWN GENDER. THEY DON'T EVEN SEE THE OPPOSITE GENDER THAT WAY.
BUT THAT'S NOT HOW IT IS FOR BIANS*
A BI PERSON MIGHT
*"BIAN" IS A TERM THAT JAPANESE LESBIANS USE FOR THEMSELVES.

It's no coincidence that I, a girl, fell in love with Mayu, another girl. It was inevitable.

I'M NOT A GUY,
SO I SHOULDN'T GIVE UP SO QUICKLY OVER SOMETHING LIKE AGE...
THEY ONLY... OH... I SEE.
Huh?
MAYBE I JUST NEED TO STAND FIRM.
MIKA-SAN IS MORE MATURE THAN ME, BUT I CAN'T JUST LEAVE HER BE.
No...
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT TO SAY...
Oh, no...

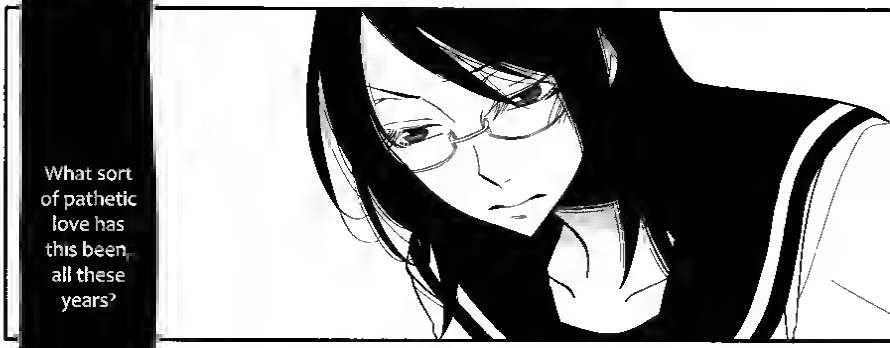
I have to do something!!
People keep asking to meet with me. u
UM... ITOU-SAN?
I'M A FRIEND OF MAYU'S.
OH, YOU'RE A FRIEND OF MAYU-CHAN'S?
PLEASE DON'T MAKE A PASS AT HER.

BUT YOU *HAVE* NOTICED, HAVEN'T YOU?
THERE'S NO DANGER OF *THAT* HAPPENING.
NO-TICED WHAT?
OUD

startle
HER FEELINGS FOR ME?
OR
YOUR FEELINGS FOR HER?
WHA-...
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF ASKING HER OUT.
DON'T WORRY,

saw...

right through me.....



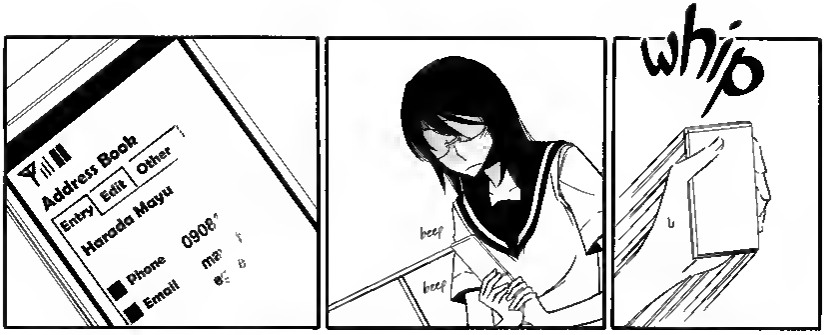
"If I can stay best friends with her, that's enough."

Maybe I don't have a chance with her, but...
YOU KNOW

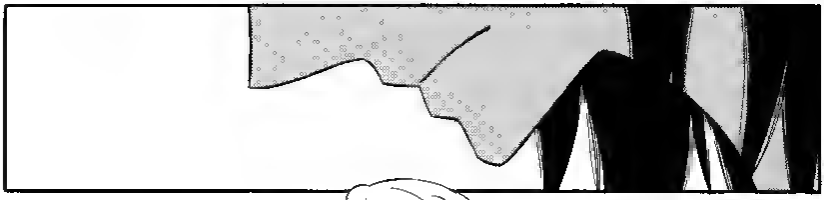
Argh.....!

I DON'T WANT THINGS TO STAY THE WAY THEY ARE, YOU KNOW!!

Up until a little while ago, I really was happy just to be her best friend.



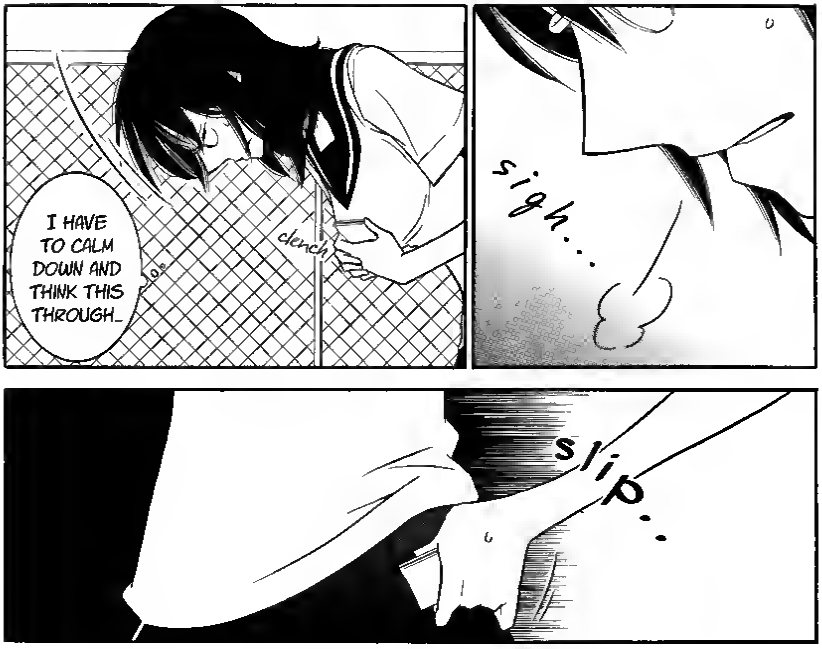
But not anymore...!!!



But my chances with her are still virtually nil.....
If I tell Mayu now, I don't think she'll reject me just for being a sexual minority.

.....So it's still too soon.

I'm not stupid enough to rush into coming out to her...



I *will* tell her someday. So let me enjoy being her best friend just a little while longer...

Fin

Fragments of Love ch6

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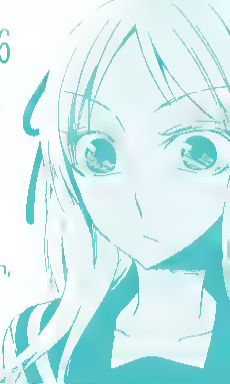
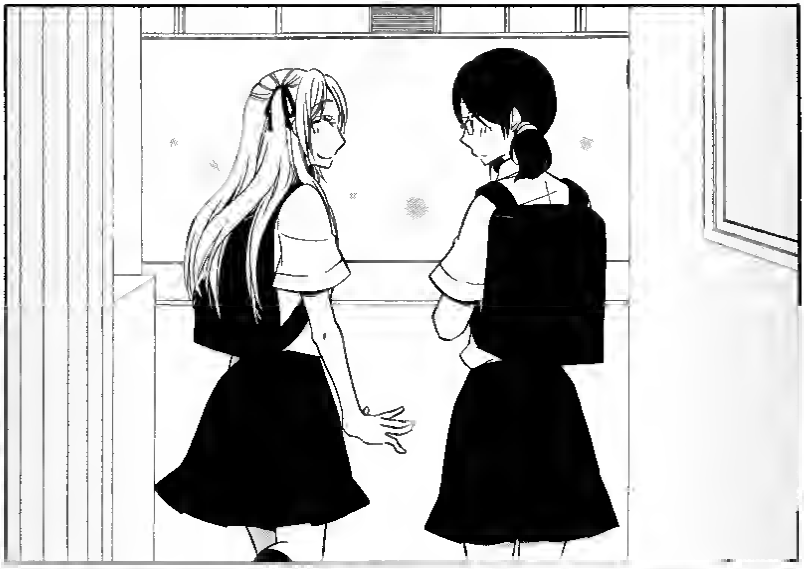




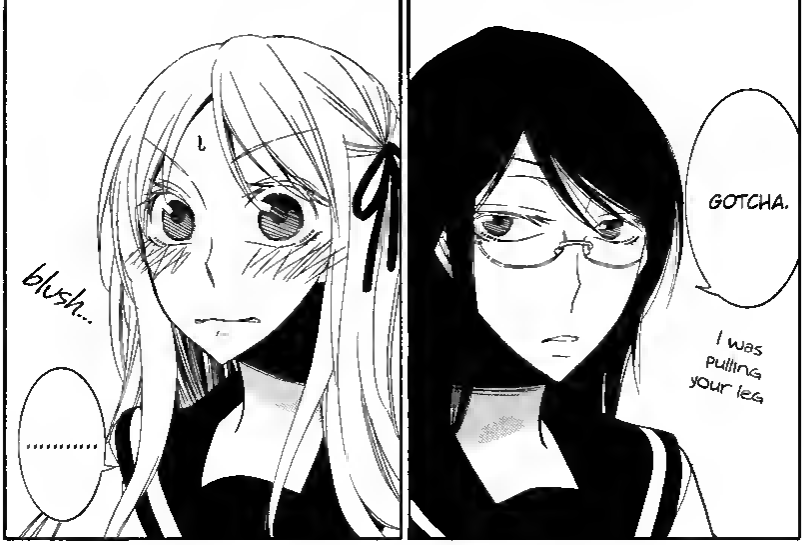
Fragments of Love
OMOINO-
KAKERA

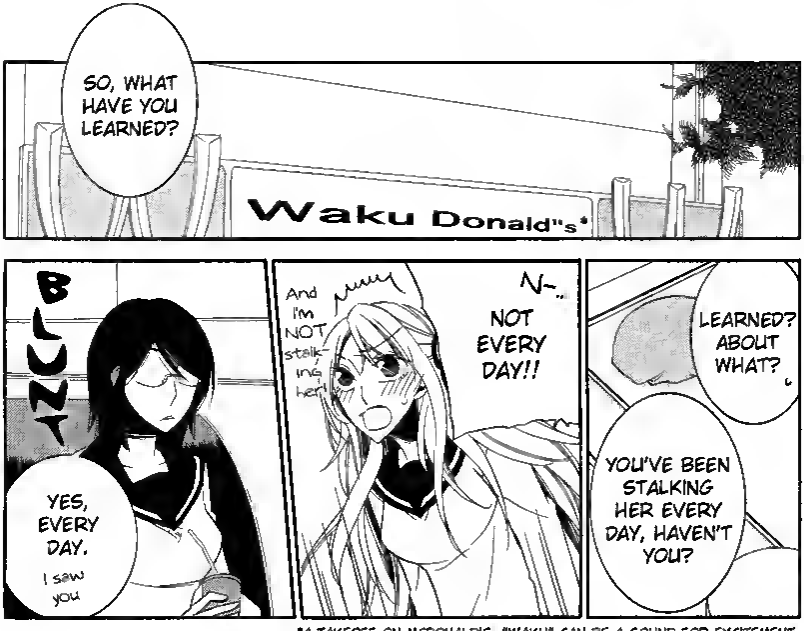
Fragments of Love

OMOINO - KAKERA

7th piece

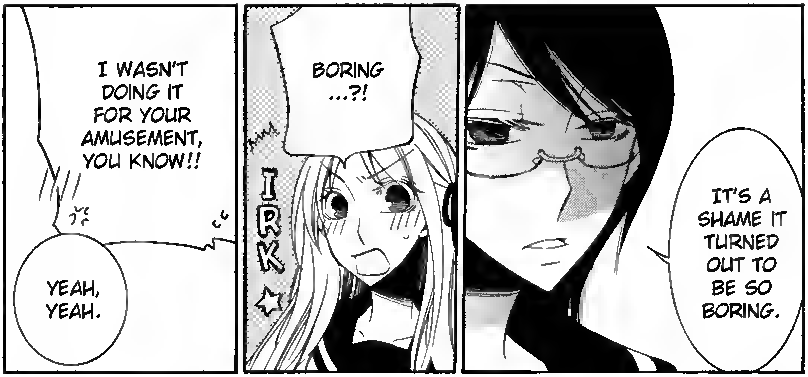
cafe
Jump
Stalking...
SNEAK
SNEAK
SO SHE IS A REGULAR THERE...
She goes about three times a week, maybe?
HAVING FUN STALKING HER?
!!
PEEK
jump
OH! HERE SHE COMES.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?
I'M NOT STA—
Hey, wait

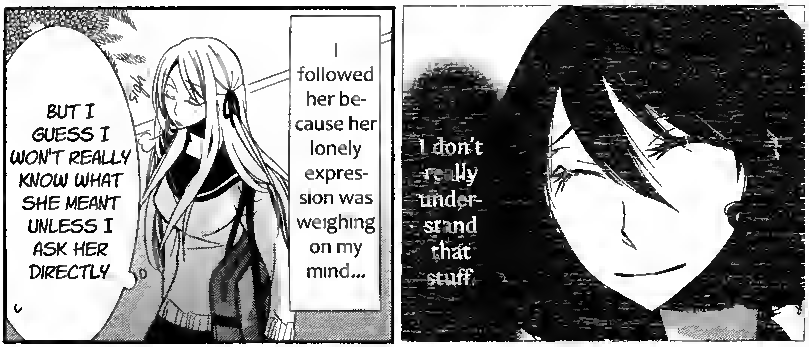


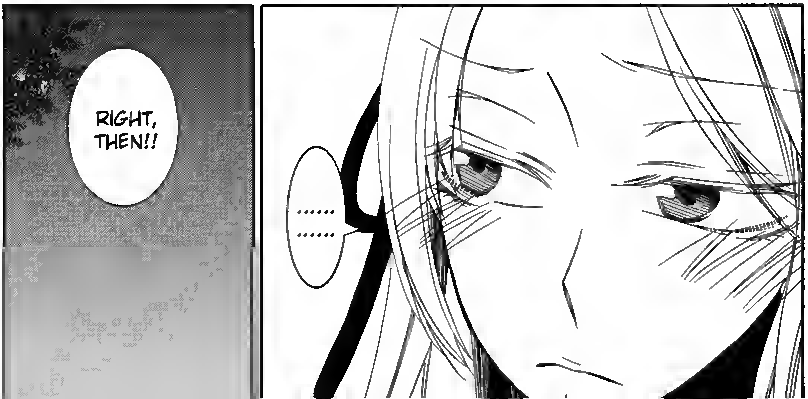


*A TAKEOFF ON MCDONALD'S. "WAKU" CAN BE A SOUND FOR EXCITEMENT.

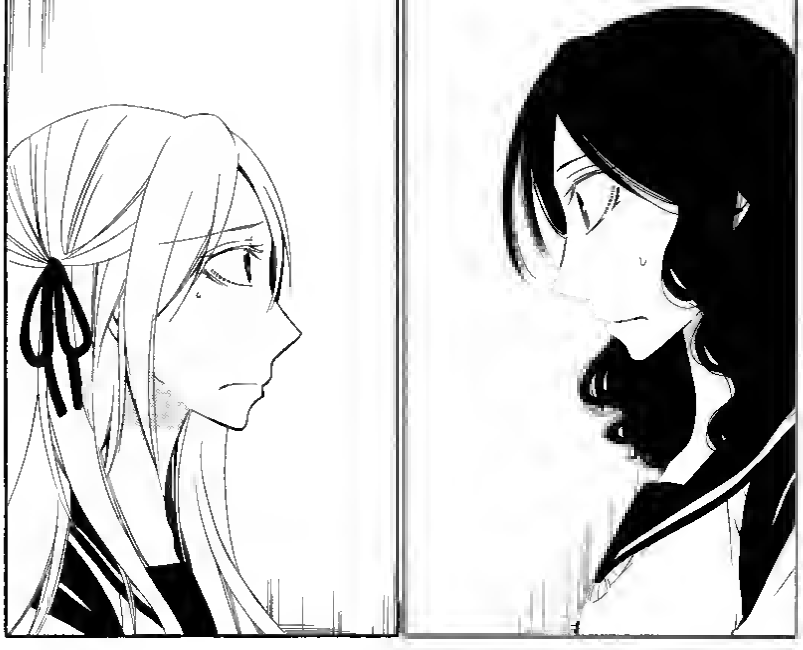
AS YOU WERE STALKING HER.
I WAS STALKING YOU
HUH?
Gah!
RIGHT BACK AT YOU.
Uh...!
YIKES!
Wait a minute
WHY WERE YOU STALKING ME, SAKI?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN YOU GET ATTACHED TO ANYONE, SO I DECIDED TO OBSERVE YOU.


I WASN'T DOING IT FOR YOUR AMUSEMENT, YOU KNOW!!
YEAH, YEAH.
BORING ...?!
IRK
IT'S A SHAME IT TURNED OUT TO BE SO BORING.


I followed her because her lonely expression was weighing on my mind...
BUT I GUESS I WON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT SHE MEANT UNLESS I ASK HER DIRECTLY
I don't really understand that stuff.


RIGHT, THEN!!
.....
.....

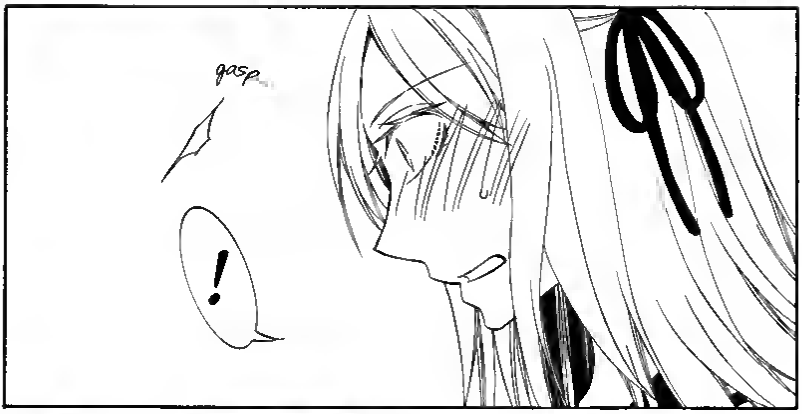
GOOD MORNING.
MY BROTHER TOLD ME THAT THIS IS WHEN YOU LEAVE FOR SCHOOL.
Mind if I join you?
Hmm?
MAYU-CHAN?
YOU SAID YOU DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND RELATIONSHIPS THE OTHER DAY, RIGHT?
I WAS JUST WONDERING WHY...
Is something wrong?
WHAT'S UP?
THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU, MIKA-SAN.
HUH?



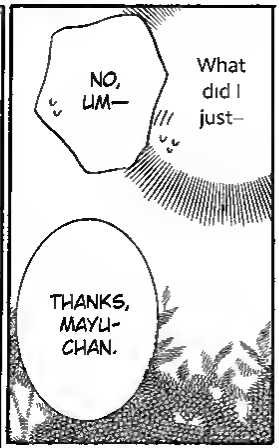
I want Mika-san to be more optimistic.

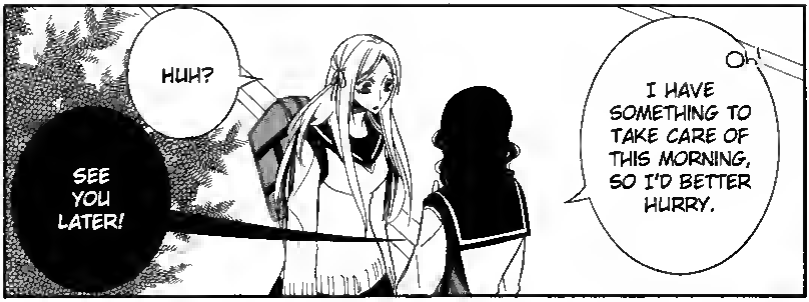
I don't want to see that lonely expression on her face ever again...

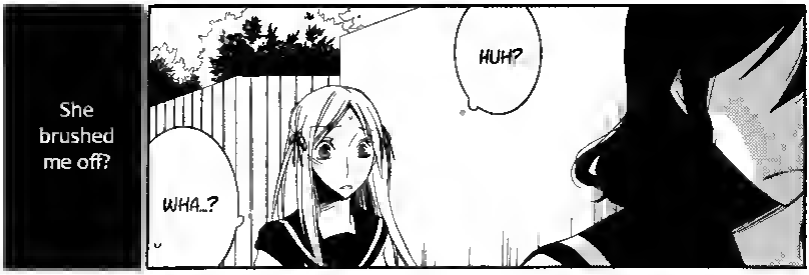
NOT AGAIN..
stab
I...
THAT'S A SECRET.
WANT YOU TO HAVE A MORE NORMAL ROMANCE!

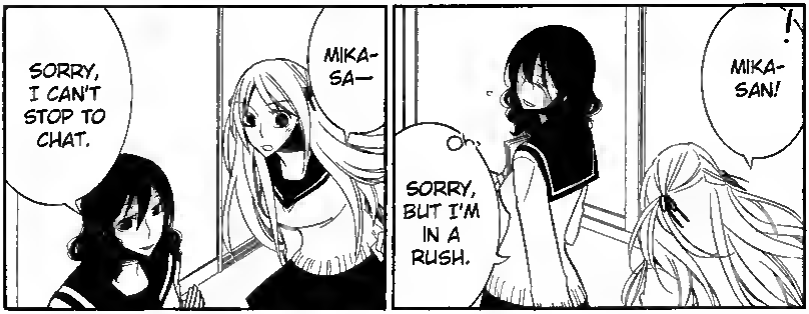

gasp
!

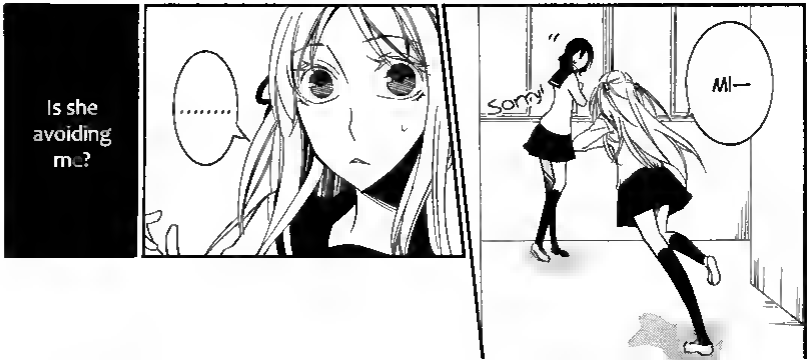
Okay?
pat
BUT I'M FINE.
Hmm?


What did I just–
NO, UM—
THANKS, MAYU-CHAN.


HUH?
SEE YOU LATER!
OH!
I HAVE SOMETHING TO TAKE CARE OF THIS MORNING, SO I'D BETTER HURRY.


She brushed me off?
HUH?
WHA..?


SORRY, I CAN'T STOP TO CHAT.
MIKA-SA—
MIKA-SAN!
OH.
SORRY, BUT I'M IN A RUSH.


Is she avoiding me?
.....
Sorry!
MI—

1-A
But...
SHE PROBABLY DOESN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT...
gloom...
That's a secret.
.....
throb

But I want her to stop looking so sad!!
Cafe Piece
Huh,?
MAYU-CHAN?
clack
I'M SORRY.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING YOU.
PLEASE WAIT!!
North Park
I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM!!
OH. YOU DIDN'T, DID YOU?
UM... I...

WHEN YOU'VE MADE SOMEONE UNCOMFORTABLE
DO YOU REALLY EXPECT TO BE FORGIVEN JUST BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM?
EVERYONE HAS THINGS THEY CAN'T TELL ANYONE, DON'T THEY? THINGS THEY'D LIKE TO KEEP SECRET?
YOU'RE FREE TO BE CURIOUS ABOUT PEOPLE'S SECRETS,
BUT HOW YOU HANDLE THINGS SHOULD BE UP TO THE PERSON IN QUESTION.

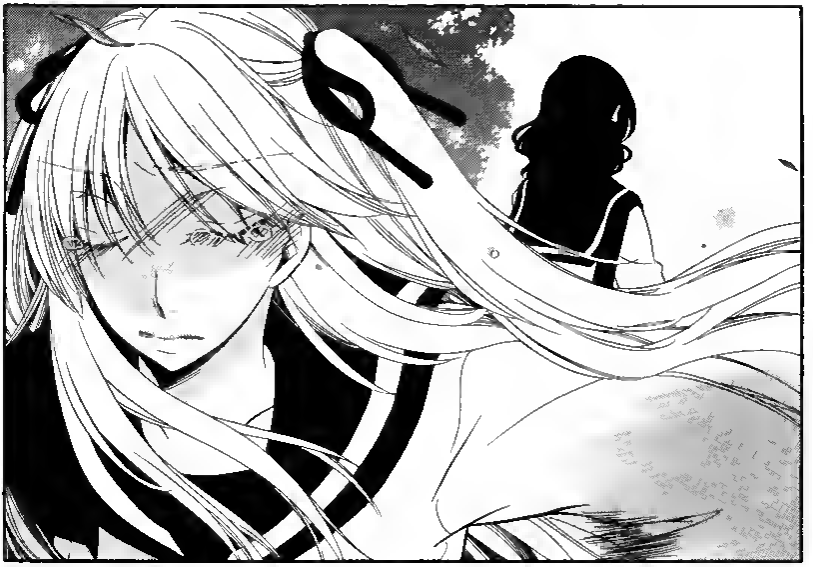
I JUST CAN'T STAND THE WAY YOU DECIDED TO GO ABOUT THIS.
AND I DON'T FORGIVE YOU FOR IT. THAT'S MY PREROGATIVE, ISN'T IT?
OH...
MIKA-SAN, I JUST...
ARE YOU REALLY SO THICK THAT YOU NEED IT SPELLED OUT FOR YOU?

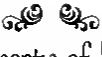
AND I'M UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO INDULGE YOUR SELF-GRATIFICATION.
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
YOU'RE JUST PUSHING YOUR WAY OF DOING THINGS ON ME.
YOU'RE BEING A HYPOCRITE, MAYU-CHAN.
THERE ARE A LOT OF WAYS TO LOVE SOMEONE.
YOU'RE A PEST.

SLAP
DOES THAT HURT? IT DOES, DOESN'T IT? WELL, I'M IN PAIN, TOO...
AND YOU KNOW IT, DON'T YOU?
YOU KNOW I'M IN PAIN, AND YOU KNOW WHY!

YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT YOU KEEP EVERYONE AT A DISTANCE SO YOU WON'T GET HURT!
BUT YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW LONELY YOU LOOK SOMETIMES, DO YOU?!
I DO APOLOGIZE FOR FOLLOWING YOU AROUND BEFORE.
I'M SORRY.
BUT I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

SO PLEASE BE PREPARED FOR THAT.
Now that I've felt this pain, there's no way I'm giving up...
Fin





Fragments of Love

OMOINO-
KAKERA

Fragments of Love ch7

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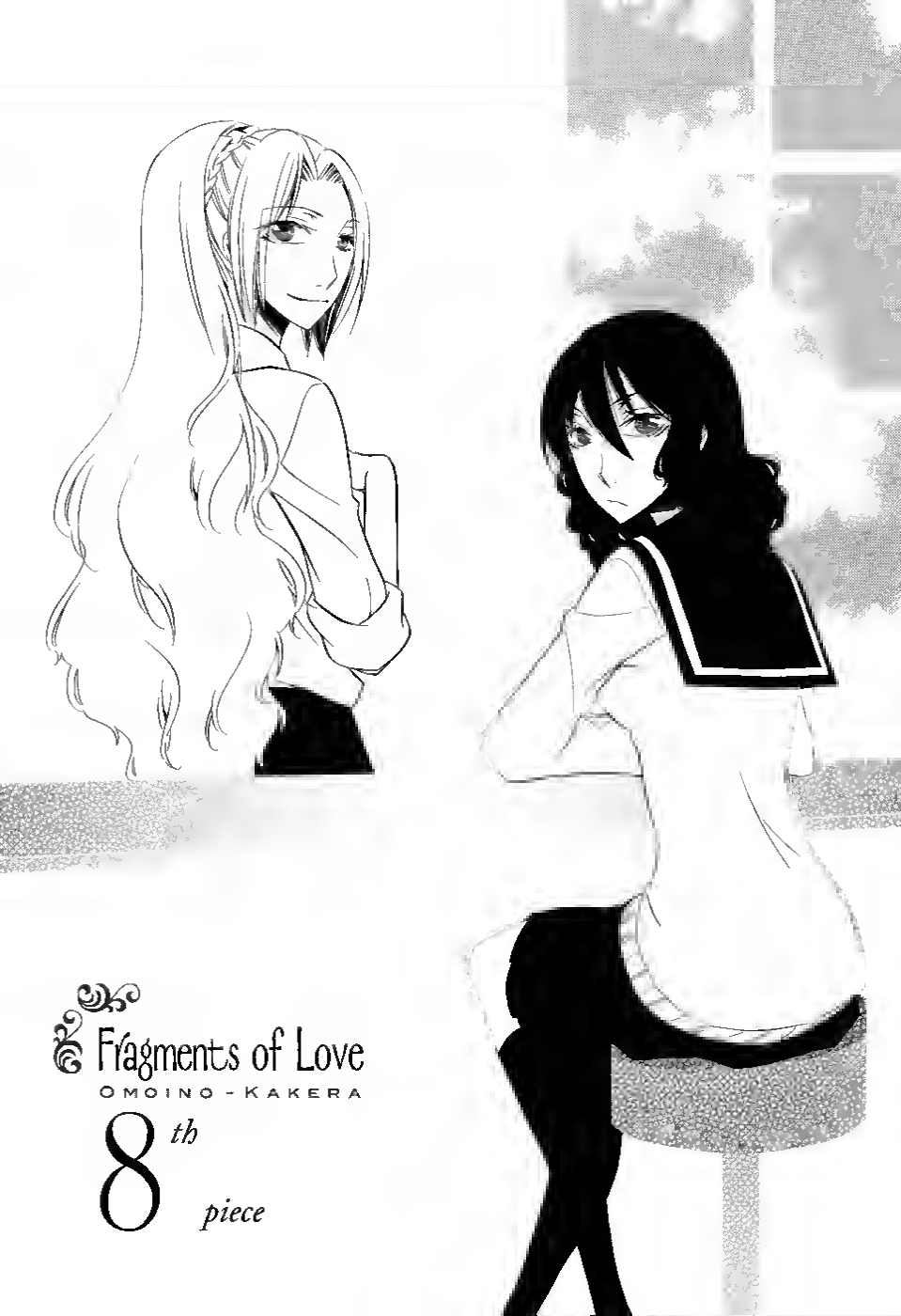


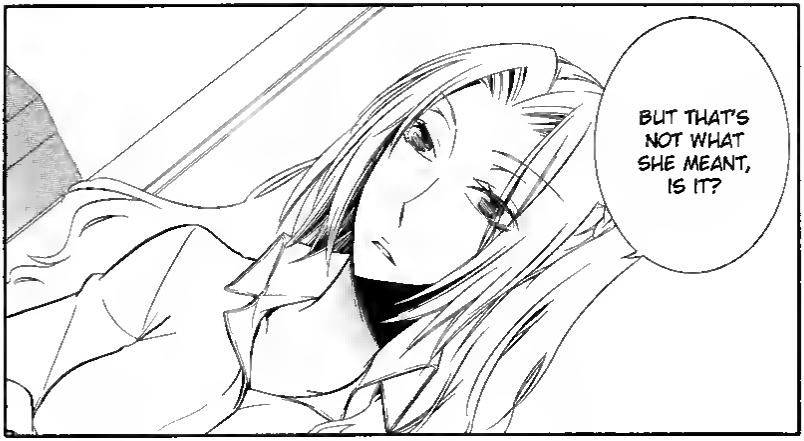
Fragments of Love

OMOINO-KAKERA

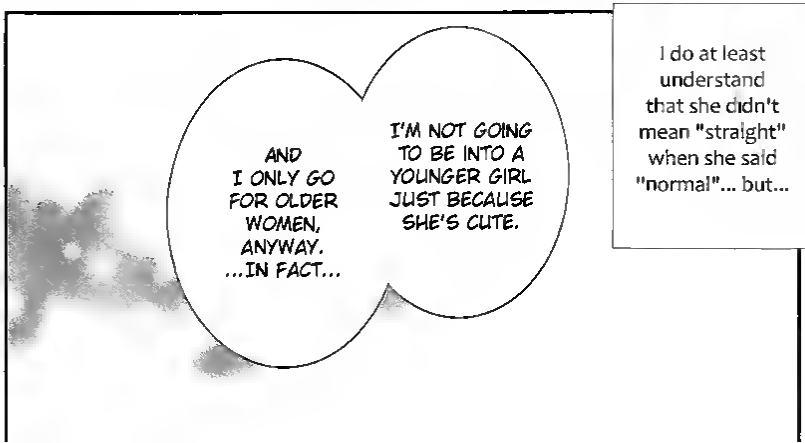
8th piece

.....
I'M SORRY ABOUT YESTER-DAY.
For the fuss we caused
Cafe Piece
Menu
.....
LEAN
I DON'T MIND,
BUT WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED?
So Basically,
A YOUNGER GIRL FROM YOUR SCHOOL STALKED YOU AND TOLD YOU THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE A NORMAL RELATIONSHIP?

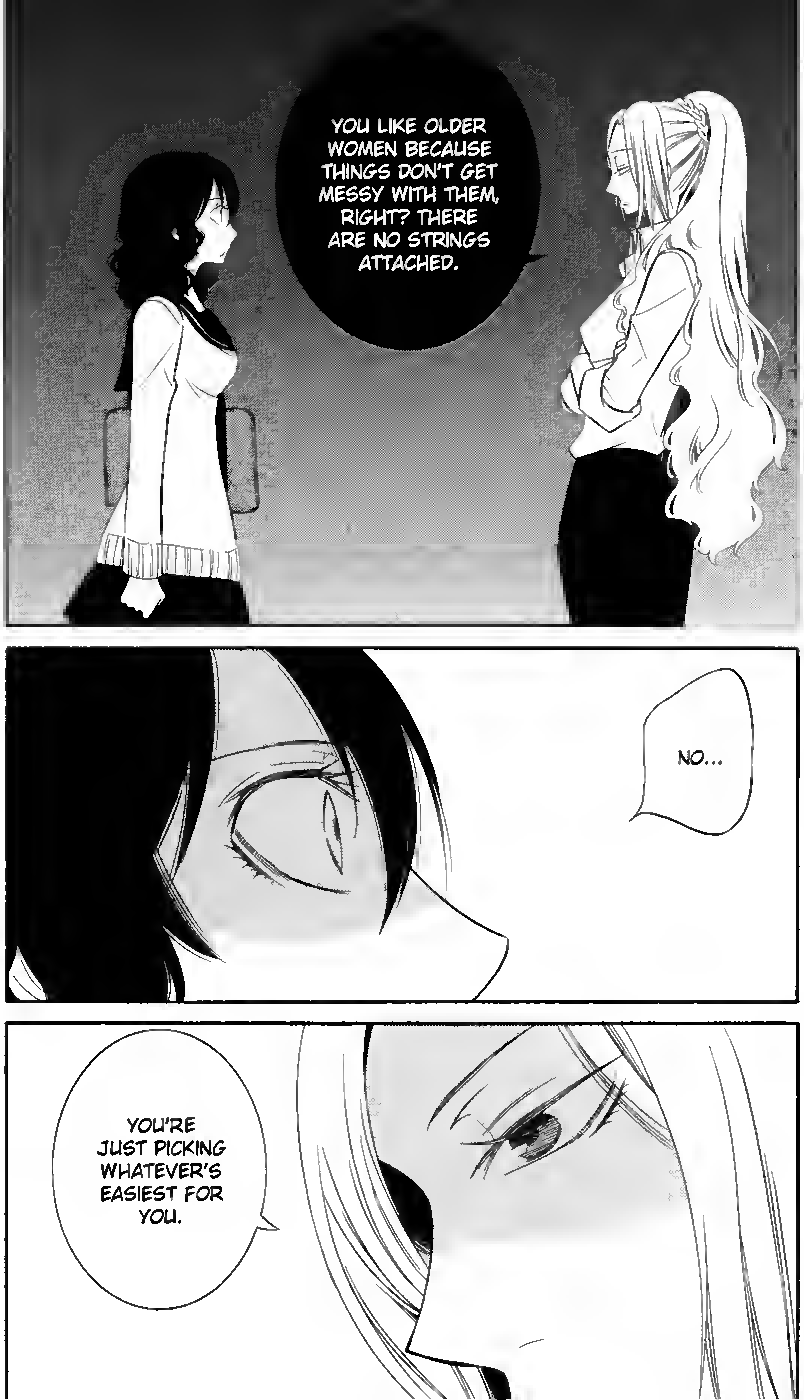
sigh...
NO, I'M NOT...
Haha wow
YOU'RE POPULAR, HUH?
SHE THINKS I SHOULD HAVE A NORMAL RELATION-SHIP,
But...
I DON'T DATE GUYS...
Well,
I CAN KIND OF SEE WHERE SHE'S COMING FROM, THOUGH.


BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT SHE MEANT, IS IT?

.....
Yes...


I do at least understand that she didn't mean "straight" when she said "normal"... but...
I'M NOT GOING TO BE INTO A YOUNGER GIRL JUST BECAUSE SHE'S CUTE.
AND I ONLY GO FOR OLDER WOMEN, ANYWAY. ...IN FACT...

I LIKE YOU...
sigh...
IT'S ONE LIE AFTER ANOTHER WITH YOU.
WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE THINGS EASY ON YOURSELF? YOU'RE STILL YOUNG.
Huh...?


YOU LIKE OLDER WOMEN BECAUSE THINGS DON'T GET MESSY WITH THEM, RIGHT? THERE ARE NO STRINGS ATTACHED.
NO...
YOU'RE JUST PICKING WHATEVER'S EASIEST FOR YOU.

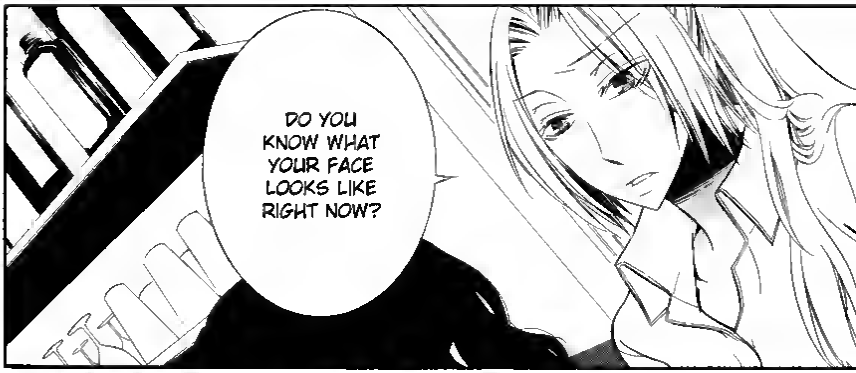
YOU'RE AFRAID OF PUTTING YOUR TRUST IN SOMEONE ONLY TO BE BETRAYED, AREN'T YOU?
YOU RE AFRAID SOMEONE MIGHT REALLY FEEL SOMETHING FOR YOU?
YOU'RE AFRAID OF HURTING SOMEONE, AND BEING HURT?

THAT'S WHY YOU WERE SO CRUEL TO HER, ISN'T IT? TO PUSH HER AWAY?

YOU'RE JUST RUNNING SCARED.
NO... I...
TELL ME, MIKA...

WHEN ARE YOU FINALLY GOING TO LET GO OF THE PAST?
NGH...

I ALREADY HAVE.

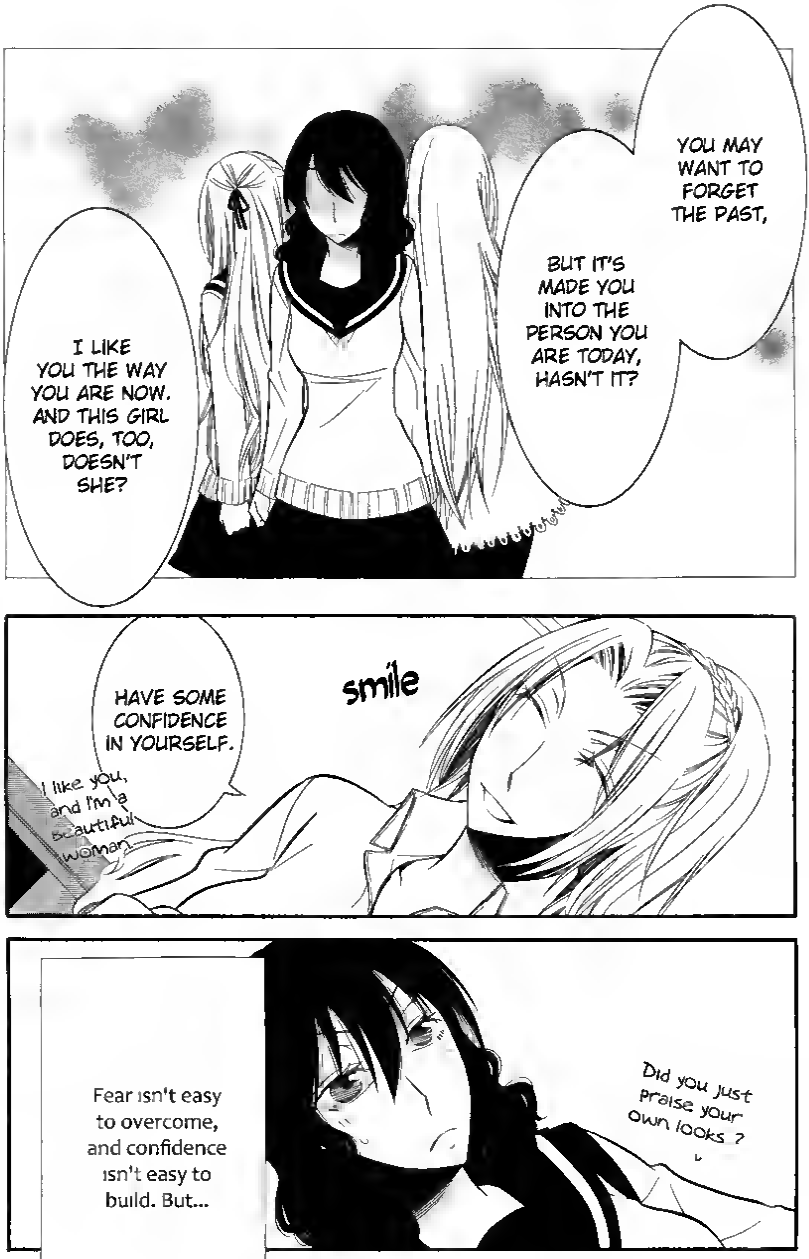

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR FACE LOOKS LIKE RIGHT NOW?

...
I...
start...

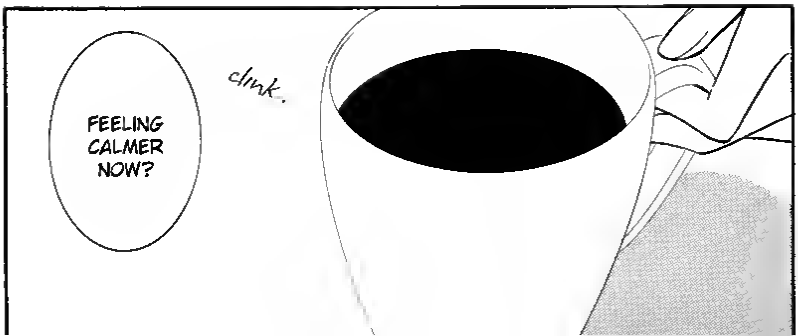
YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU?
And even if I do manage it, that doesn't mean it's going to last...
But I might lose something else in the process...
just want to be happy...
.....
THAT WHEN SHE SAID "NORMAL," SHE MEANT "WITH SOMEONE YOU LOVE."
YES, I KNOW...
I'm just so scared...
clench...

BUT
I'VE FORGOTTEN HOW TO FALL IN LOVE...
Silly
WHY ARE YOU OVERTHINKING THIS?
LOVE ISN'T SOMETHING YOU CAN PLAN, IS IT?

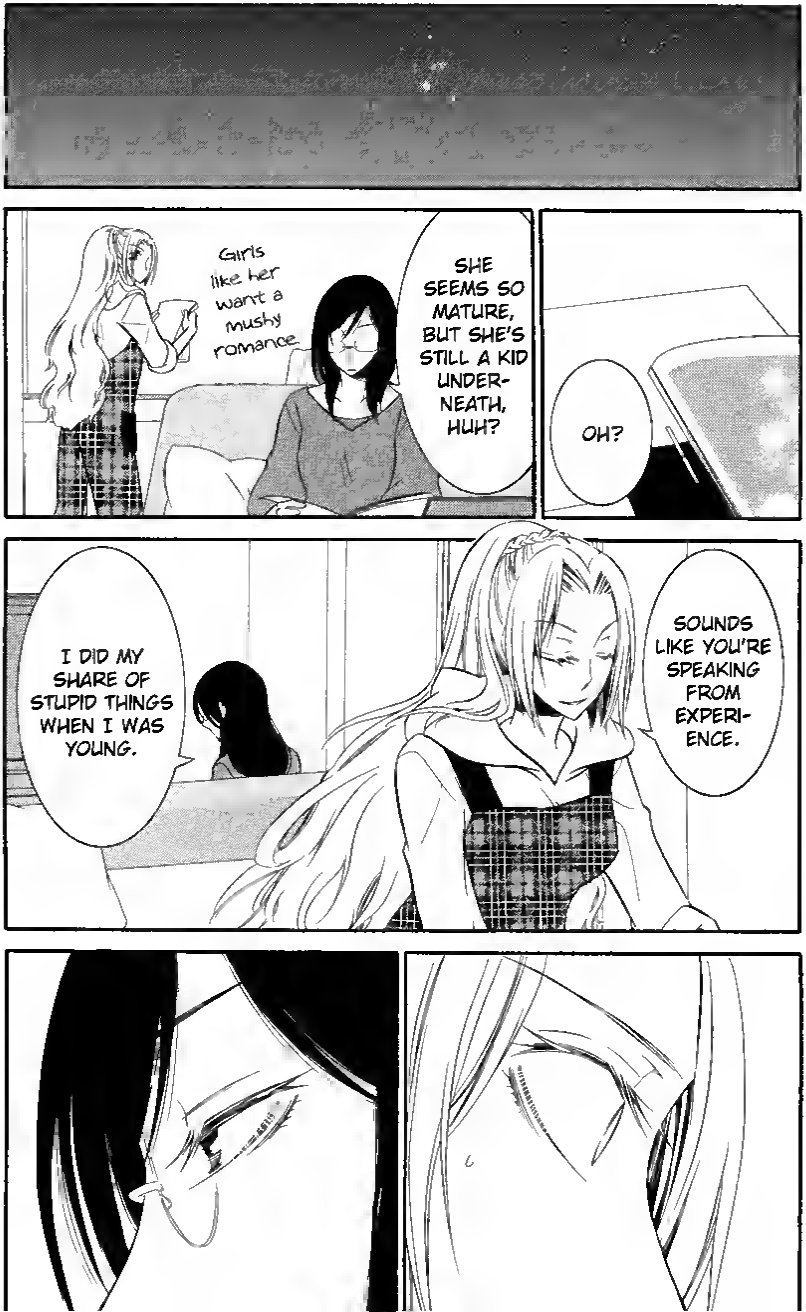
BY THE TIME YOU REALIZE WHAT'S GOING ON, YOU'RE ALREADY IN LOVE.
Hehe
YOU WERE RELAXING ABOUT THE WRONG THING.
You go to extremes
.....
ANYWAY,
YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE IT SO HARD.
When you fall in love, embrace it!
But
DIDN'T YOU JUST TELL ME NOT TO MAKE THINGS EASY ON MYSELF?


YOU MAY WANT TO FORGET THE PAST,
BUT IT'S MADE YOU INTO THE PERSON YOU ARE TODAY, HASN'T IT?
I LIKE YOU THE WAY YOU ARE NOW. AND THIS GIRL DOES, TOO, DOESN'T SHE?
smile
HAVE SOME CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF.
I like you, and I'm a beautiful woman.
Fear isn't easy to overcome, and confidence isn't easy to build. But...
Did you just praise your own looks?

I think I can trust in her words.

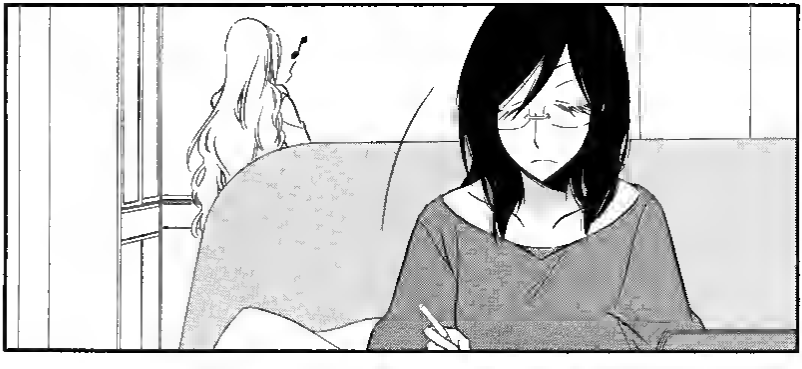


...BUT
I DON'T KNOW IF LOVE... WOULD BE A POSSIBILITY WITH HER.
I SUPPOSE...
OH, GOOD
HUH?
It is?
Mm?
Hmm
WELL, THAT'S FINE, ISN'T IT?
REMEMBER WHAT I SAID? LOVE IS SOMETHING YOU FALL INTO.
.....


Girls like her want a mushy romance.
SHE SEEMS SO MATURE, BUT SHE'S STILL A KID UNDER-NEATH, HUH?
OH?
I DID MY SHARE OF STUPID THINGS WHEN I WAS YOUNG.
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE SPEAKING FROM EXPERI-ENCE.

reach..

I'M HUNGRY.



BY THE TIME YOU'VE REALIZED WHAT'S GOING ON, YOU'RE ALREADY IN LOVE, HUH?

Fin

Fragments of Love ch8

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Fragments of Love

OMOINO-KAKERA

9th piece

Huh?
DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT?
No, NOT A BIT.
DON'T THEY SAY THAT SIGHING DRIVES AWAY HAPPINESS?
sigh
THERE, THERE. Calm down
Yeah, pretty much
Are you making fun of me?
SAKI...?
.....
So, apparently Mayu told Mika-san how she felt about her three days ago.
Or hinted at it, anyway. It sounded like she didn't come right out and say she liked her.....

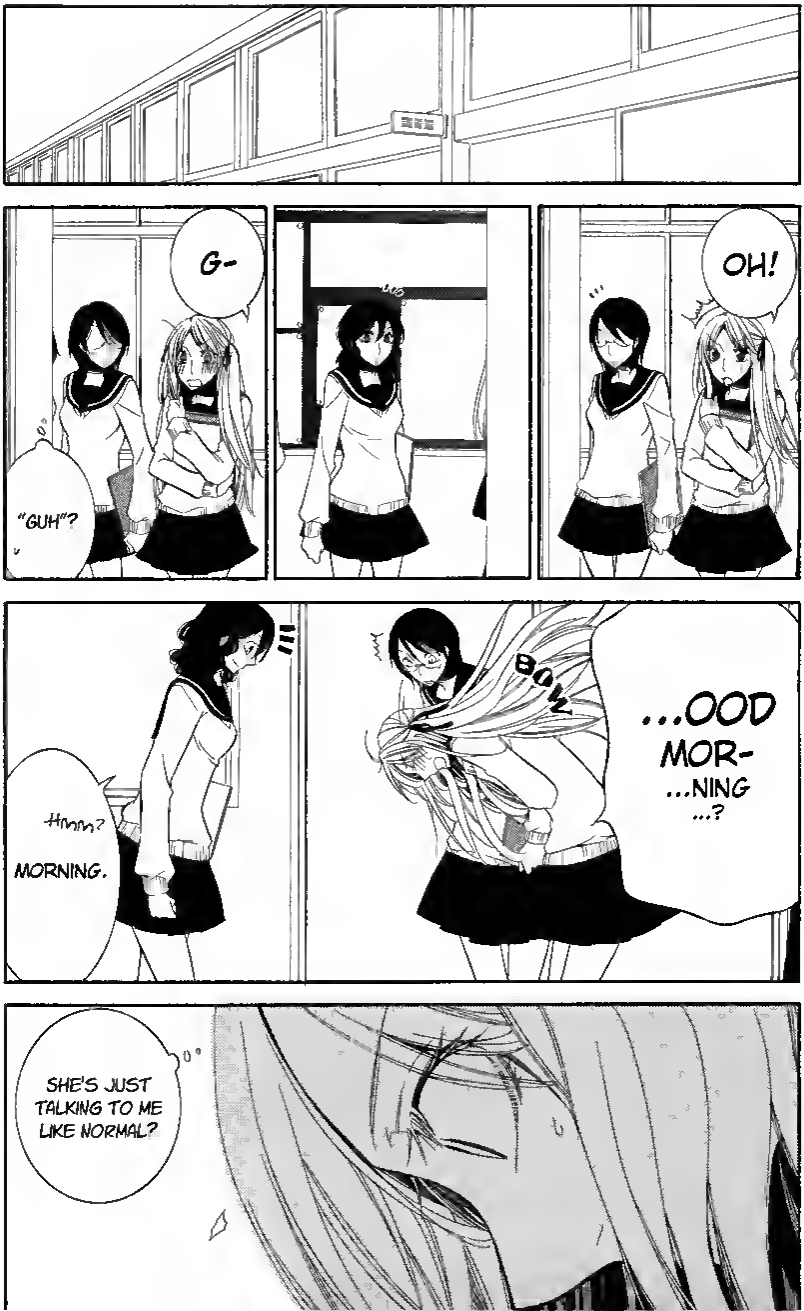
WHY DON'T YOU JUST GIVE UP ON HER?

Ugh, how tedious.

HUH?
MIKA-SAN, I MEAN.
GEEZ!!!
TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY, PLEASE!!
I'M DEAD SERIOUS.
It hurts that I can't tell her how I really feel.

But the time isn't right.
I'm in love with her, and I've decided I *am* going to tell her someday
She's crazy about someone else right now,
PUFF
You're so mean!
.....
and it *hurts*.

I'm just going out of my mind.


G-
"GUH"?
OH!
...
...OOD MOR-
...NING ...?
BAM
Hmm?
MORNING.
SHE'S JUST TALKING TO ME LIKE NORMAL?

UM— MIKA-SAN...
Whoo-S!
HMM?
You're full of energy today
WHAT'S UP?
Huh?
OH... UM... NOTHING.

IS SHE PRETENDING LIKE IT NEVER HAPPENED...?
Again?
Urk... So we're back to square one again? No way!
Problems she doesn't want to deal with...
Don't you think so?
RIGHT?
Well,
SHE'S THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO JUST BRUSHES OFF PROBLEMS SHE DOESN'T WANT TO DEAL WITH, RIGHT?
That's the impression I got
...HEY,
Wait

whoosh
WHAT?
...SAKI,
I'VE BEEN WONDERING...
What?

DO YOU HAVE A THING FOR MIKA-SAN?
Huh?
Whaaa ...?!!
WHY WOULD YOU EVEN ASK THAT?!!
'CAUSE YOU REALLY SEEM TO GET HER! IT'S WEIRD.
DAZE

No way!
SHE'S THE LAST PERSON I'D FALL FOR!!!
Urk
HUH...?
DO YOU HATE HER, THEN?
stare
... Oh ...
DID SHE SEE IT ON MY FACE?
Crap
...NO, I...
She caught me off guard ...

REALLY?
clench..
Oh,
no...

I can't lie to her...

...I'M SORRY, I JUST... DON'T LIKE HER

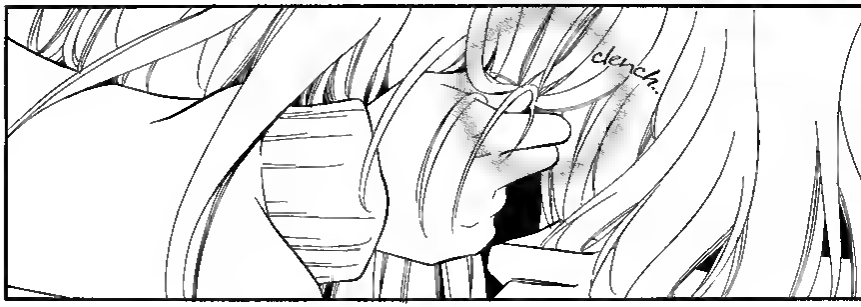
But there's no way I could tell you that.
Hmm
I JUST DON'T, I GUESS?
Because you're in love with her
WHY DON'T YOU LIKE MIKA-SAN?
WHY. DON'T. YOU. LIKE. HER?
WHAA..?
She just won't let this drop
HUH? DO I HAVE TO?
THAT'S IT? GIVE ME A STRAIGHT ANSWER!!
sshh
OF COURSE!
Geez!
...But...
I can't tell her the whole truth yet.

SSHH...
I CARE ABOUT YOU, SO I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU GET HURT.
TH-... THANKS, SAKI.

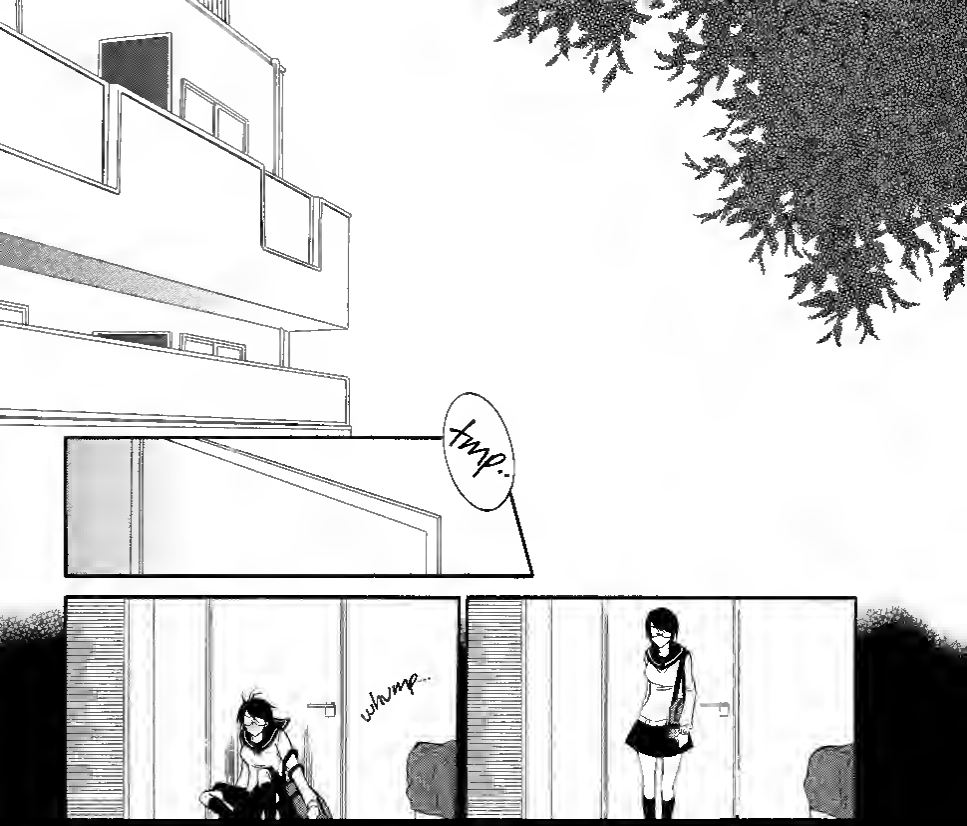
BUT EVEN IF I DO GET HURT, I KNOW I WON'T REGRET IT!
So you don't need to worry about me!!
CLENCH
Even if it's just for now,
I'm still not telling her
how I really feel...
I'D EXPECT NO LESS FROM YOU, MAYU.
Hehe
AND BESIDES,

IF I GET HURT, YOU'LL BE THERE TO COMFORT ME, RIGHT?

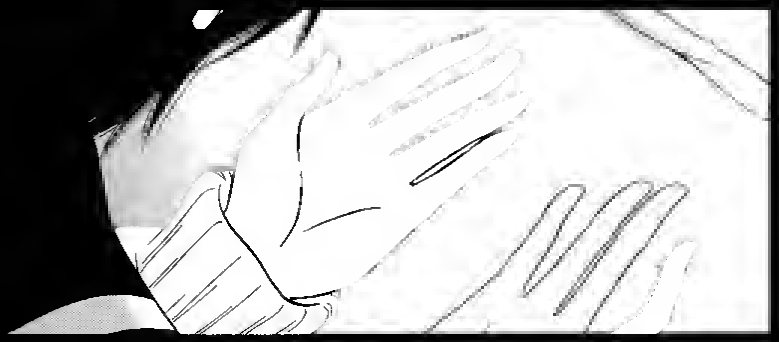
tmp
ABSOLUTELY.
Mm.
THANKS.
I'M SO GLAD I HAVE YOU, SAKI.



YEAH...



If Mayu gets hurt, I'll do everything I can to comfort her.



But...

who's going to comfort me when I'm hurt.....?

Fin

Fragments of Love ch9

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Fragments of Love

OMOINO - KAKERA

10th piece

Culture Festival Executive Committee
(2 Members Needed)
I'D LIKE US TO CHOOSE TWO REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE FESTIVAL'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.
Um
...SO,
2-A
SILENCE ooo
WOULD ANYONE LIKE TO JOIN?
WHO HAS TIME FOR THAT CRAP?
I'LL JOIN!
Are you nominating someone?
Hmm?
HARADA-KUN?
CHATTER...
IF THERE ARE NO VOLUNTEERS, HOW ABOUT NOMINATIONS...?
I see. Nobody...
ME!
THIS MIGHT END IN DISAS-TER...
YES!!
Pardon?
THE COMMITTEE?!
You?!

Huh?
WOULD YOU MIND, TAKAOKA-SAN?
OKAY, HARADA-KUN WILL BE OUR FIRST REPRESENTATIVE
WHO WILL BE THE OTHER?
NOT A ONE!!
Takaoka-san is fine!!
ANY OBJECTIONS?
I'D NEVER LET ANY OTHER GIRL JOIN WITH HIM, THOUGH!!
Um...
WHY ME?
Hmm?
WELL, YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF HARADA-KUN, AREN'T YOU?
That's what I heard from the other girls in class
And I could relax if I knew you were representing our class on the committee.
Then
IT'S DECIDED.
Harada
Takaoka
Final Choice
clack
In charge of him... like what, I'm his keeper?
...
Wha
...

How did this happen?!!
What a pain...
TAKAO-KAAAA!
....
HEY
...
Whoa!
WAIT, YOU ALWAYS LOOK LIKE THAT?
OH, THAT'S JUST HOW MY FACE LOOKS.
Problem?
YOUR FACE IS SCARING ME.
I SEE SARCASM IS LOST ON YOU.
skrrk
GRR..
EX-CUSE ME? WHAT WAS THAT "WHOA" FOR?
JUST HAVING YOU THERE WILL MAKE ME FEEL BETTER, TAKAOKA
Huh?
WHY ARE YOU BEING SO FORMAL ABOUT IT?
NO SENSE IN GETTING IRRITATED WITH HIM, HUH?
So anyway
THANK YOU FOR JOINING THE COMMITTEE WITH ME.
Sigh
Well
c'est la vie...
?
You're a sweet-talker, all right
.....
That mega-watt smile

CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
Culture Festival Executive Committee
Today's Meeting:
Conference Room
GASP
OH!
About 2B past
YEAH.
What time is it now?
IT STARTS AT HALF PAST, RIGHT?
Okay,
LET'S GET STARTED!
NO, I...
FOLLOW-ING...
me?
.....
YOU'RE ON THE COMMITTEE, TOO?
I JUST JOINED TO HELP SAKI OUT. I HAD NO IDEA YOU'D BE HERE, I WASN'T FOLLOWING YOU OR ANYTHING...
It was just a coincidence!

.....
She was really flustered.
sigh
THAT WAS AWKWARD_

...If she
knew about my past...
BUT MY PAST IS SUCH A HEAVY SUB-JECT
It's not that easy for me to talk about
so this must all be one big question mark for her.
Well, who could blame her, after what happened before...
And I'm acting totally normal,

what would an innocent girl like her think about it?

I'M SORRY FOR THE OTHER DAY!!
bow
OH_
Right! I forgot about that.
rub rub
...AND...
AND I'M SORRY I HIT YOU LIKE THAT!!
What the

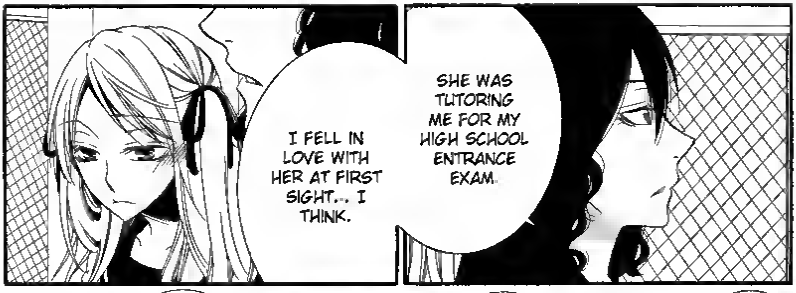
ARE YOU PRETENDING LIKE IT NEVER HAPPENED?
I'LL GET RIGHT TO THE POINT...
...YES?
Huh?
STARE...
What an intense stare
...NO.

WHY WERE YOU ACTING LIKE THAT, THEN?!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO...
stare...
I WANT TO GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER, MIKA-SAN!!
SHE'S RELENT-LESS...
Um.
tmp tmp tmp.
crash
tmp tmp tmp tmp tmp tmp tmp.
She's so close...

Guh
...
SHOVE
OKAY, I GET IT, SO GIVE ME SOME BREATHING ROOM, ALL RIGHT?
.....
Maybe she'll go away once she knows the truth about my past...
PHEW...

IT'S NOT A PARTICULARLY HAPPY STORY...
I'VE LIKED GIRLS SINCE BEFORE I EVEN KNEW THE WORD "BIAN."
MY FIRST LOVE WAS A GIRL, OF COURSE...
BUT I WAS JUST A KID, SO I THOUGHT I SHOULD KEEP IT TO MYSELF.
Well, NOT THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN SERIOUSLY ANYWAY...
Since I was so little

JUST AS I'D GIVEN UP ALL HOPE OF GETTING A GIRLFRIEND UNTIL ADULTHOOD...
AN INCREDIBLY BEAUTIFUL WOMAN WALKED INTO MY LIFE.


SHE WAS TUTORING ME FOR MY HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAM.
I FELL IN LOVE WITH HER AT FIRST SIGHT... I THINK.

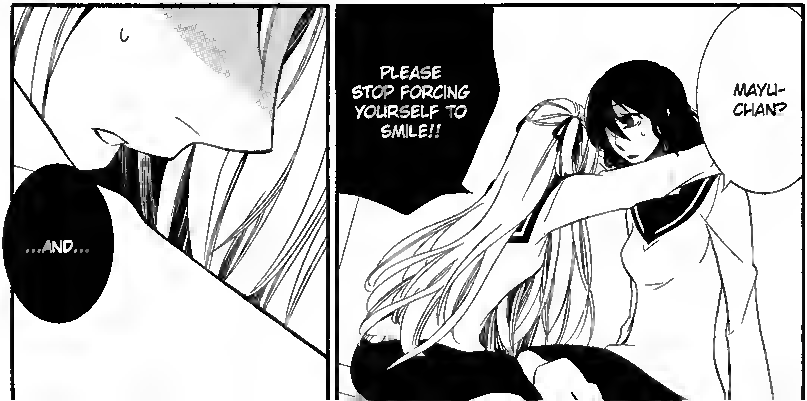
SO I STUDIED HARDER,
AND MY GRADES WENT UP, YOU KNOW?
AND THEN SHE WOULD PRAISE ME FOR MY GOOD GRADES, WHICH MADE ME HAPPY.
PLUS SHE WAS INTERESTING, AND KIND.
I FELL DEEPER AND DEEPER.

THEN ONE DAY, SHE WAS TIRED BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T GET ENOUGH SLEEP THE NIGHT BEFORE.
SO I LET HER NAP IN MY BED, NOT THINKING MUCH OF IT...
AND SHE SMELLED SO GOOD
THAT BEFORE I EVEN KNEW I WAS DOING IT,
MY LIPS WERE ON HERS
She was only pretending to be asleep
...WELL, IT TURNED OUT THAT SHE KNEW ABOUT THE KISS...

SHE TAUGHT ME A LOT, I THINK, AND NOT JUST ABOUT SCHOOL.
BUT SHE ACCEPTED ME ANYWAY, JUST AS I WAS.
WE SLEPT TOGETHER, TOO.
Looking back on it now,
I was so in love, so wrapped up in my feelings for her,
that I had no idea what was really going on...
I can see what a foolish little girl I was then.
HUH?
!
SHE WAS JUST FOOLING AROUND WITH ME.
...EVER SINCE THEN, I GUESS.

HE
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO FALL IN LOVE LIKE A NORMAL PERSON...

Hmm?
HUG
any-more


MAYU-CHAN?
PLEASE STOP FORCING YOURSELF TO SMILE!!
...AND...

I WON'T ABANDON YOU! I'M NOT LEAVING YOUR SIDE UNTIL YOU'VE LEARNED HOW TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH SOMEONE YOU LOVE!
Um
She...
SO YOU'RE STALKING ME AGAIN...?
NO!!
I WAS JUST KIDDING.
sure is strong...
Haha

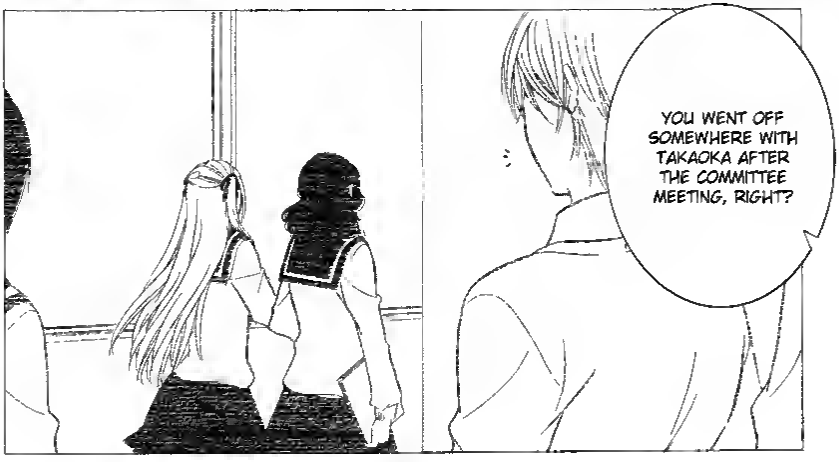
CLASS 2-B
38th Culture Festival
Reception is this way!
Hmm?
... HARADA
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
TAKAO-KAAAA!!
tmp tmp
Oh!
We'll manage.
IT'S OKAY!
Huh?
SORRY, AND THANKS.
I'll be Back!
I NEED YOUR HELP OVER AT THE STAGE.
Huh?
WE HAVE OUR HANDS FULL HERE, TOO.

tmp
EXCUSE ME?
.....
Sorry!
We should be looking out for our juniors not the other way around!
PLEASE SIGN IN HERE
Ishinita Yuki
Kaneko Aiko
Kuwi Tsuru
Iwata Hideki
Yamashita Ch
I'll check your ticket
Oh...
I'M SORRY!
Executive Committee
HUH?
WAS THAT MIKA-CHAN, BY THE WAY?
Reception
...YES.
I'M GLAD SHE MADE IT IN..

Yoshiwara Sayaka
Yamashita Ichiroso
Iwata Hideko
Tezuka Mieko

Fin

Intermission 1



Maybe it wasn't nothing... after all?

Fin.

Fragments of Love ch10

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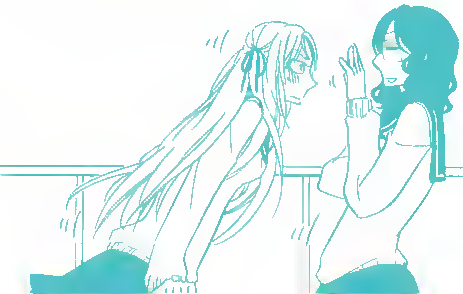


想いの欠片 2

竹宮ジン

JIN TAKEMIYA

OMOINO-KAKERA

白泉社

楽園
Le Paradis
[ルパラディ]
Tome 6
君が居る。それだけでそこが、

楽園

Le Paradis

［ル・パラディ］

Tome 6

楽園
Le Paradis
「ル・パラディ」
Tome 7
あなたの声で、とろける幸せ。

楽園

Le Paradis

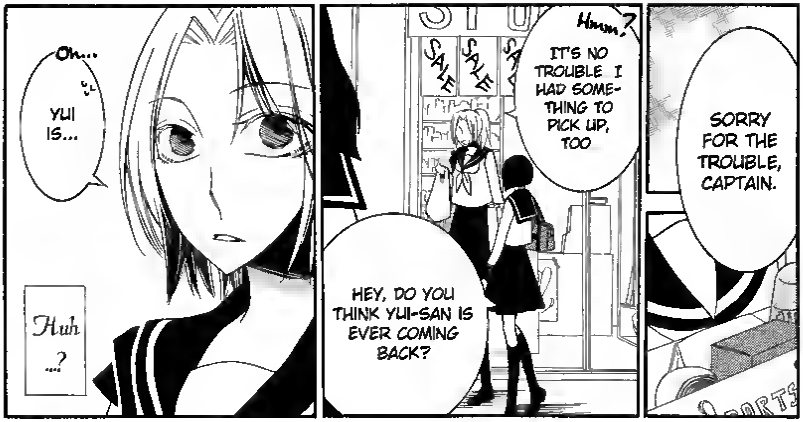
ル パラディ

Tome 8

逢魔が刻。誰そ、花と甘さを喰う君。

夏の誘惑。冷えたカラダの甘い肌。

瞳に映るは
私の獲物。


Oh...
YUI IS...
Huh ...?
SALE
HEY, DO YOU THINK YUI-SAN IS EVER COMING BACK?
Hmm?
IT'S NO TROUBLE I HAD SOMETHING TO PICK UP, TOO
SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE, CAPTAIN.

Yui...?

...

The last guy she liked, Kuze, was an idiot, but he wasn't a bad guy...
HMM...
HE DIDN'T SEEM LIKE THE SERIOUS TYPE.
That guy who was with Yui today... could it be him?
Is he...
THIS GUY IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT, ISN'T HE?
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR KUDOU-SAN? SHE'S RIGHT OVER... OH?
She's not...?
DO YOU KNOW WHERE YUI IS?
SHE WAS HERE JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO
WHERE'S YUI?
Huh?
YEAH, SHE WAS IN CLASS, BUT...
HAVE YOU SEEN YUI?
SHE WAS HERE.. BUT I GUESS SHE LEFT.
...OH.
Thanks.
just using her?
KUDOU-SAN?
Huh?

She's totally avoiding me, isn't she?!
I kind of had a feeling she was, but...
It can't just be a coincidence that I keep missing her...
I'll ambush her after class!!
...Well, in that case,
Ehehehe...
WE HAVE PRACTICE TODAY.

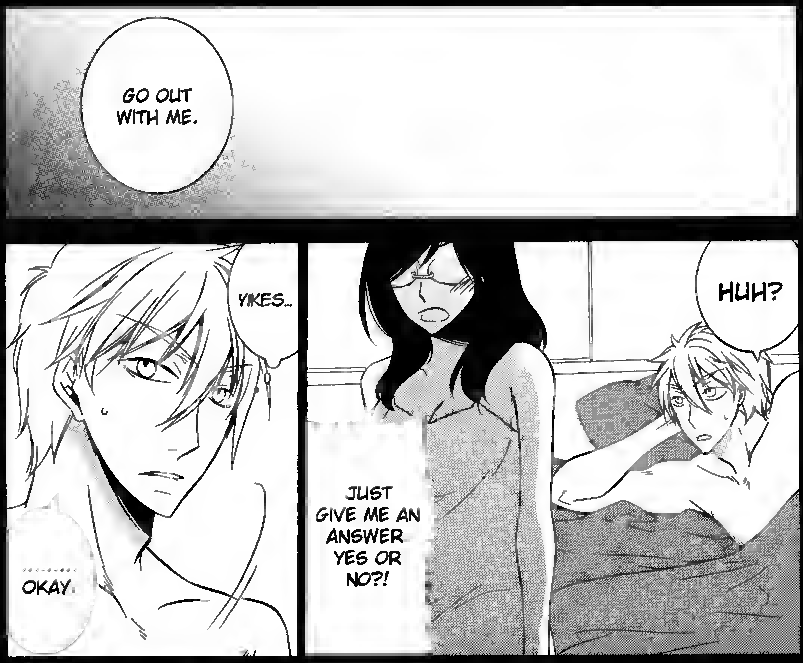
I--
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO ABANDON US?
I'M NOT GOING ANY-MORE.

IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S THAT MUCH WORK ANYWAY!!
CAN'T YOU JUST FIND SOMEONE ELSE TO TAKE MY PLACE?!
IS THAT WHAT YOU DID WITH KUZE?

ARE YOU SURE?

AREN'T YOU IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE?
It's not a substitute.
Shut up...!!
JUST DO IT, AND KEEP YOUR COMMENTS TO YOURSELF!!
He's not just a substitute...
slip...
WELL, SINCE YOU'RE OFFERING, I'M NOT GONNA TURN YOU DOWN.
I chose him of my own free will!!!
YOU READY?
...
slip...
thrust ooo
NGH!
... So...

this piercing pain
must be in my body,
not my heart.



I don't need to put a name to the pain that's welling up inside me.

Fin

Love & Piece
Chapter 8

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QC'd by kat_chan, Anonka, Sailor Avalon,
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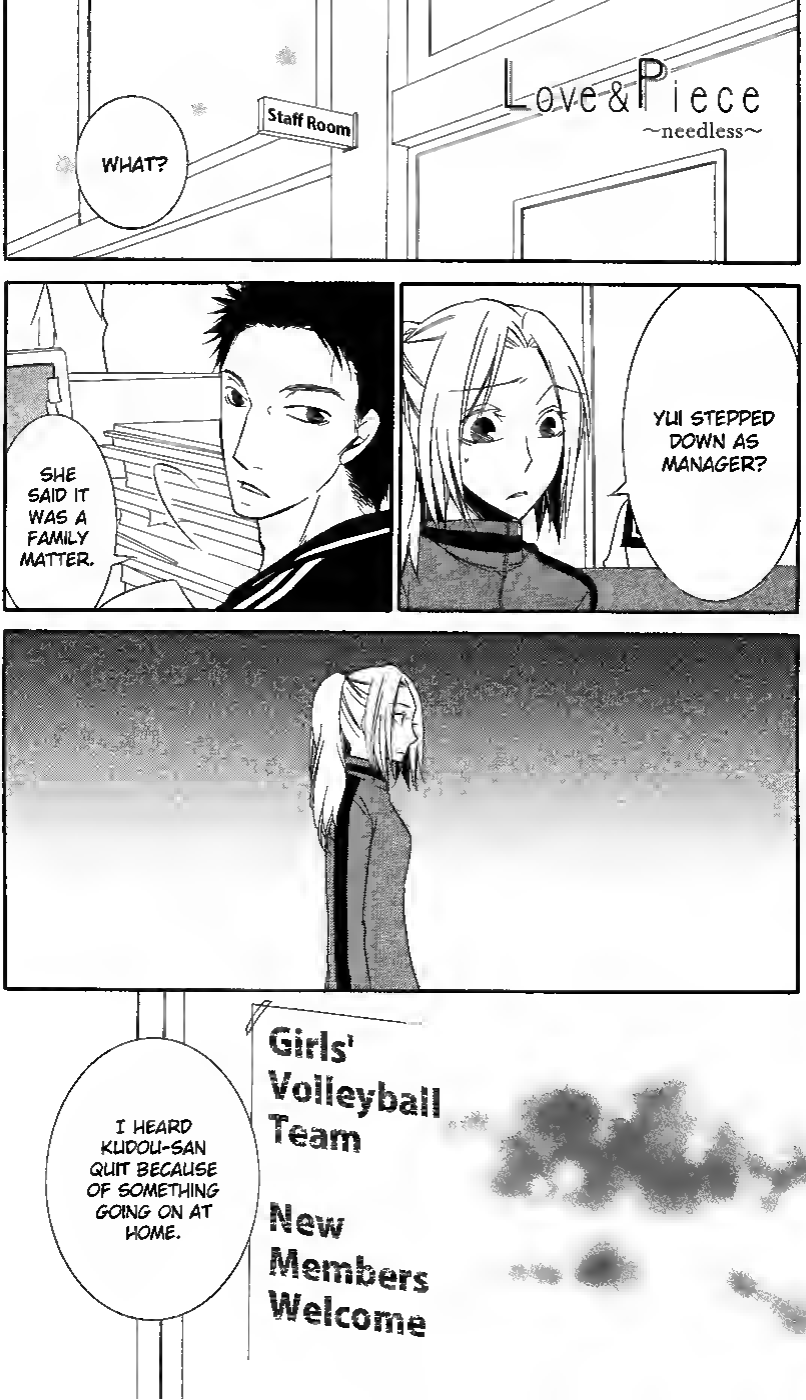
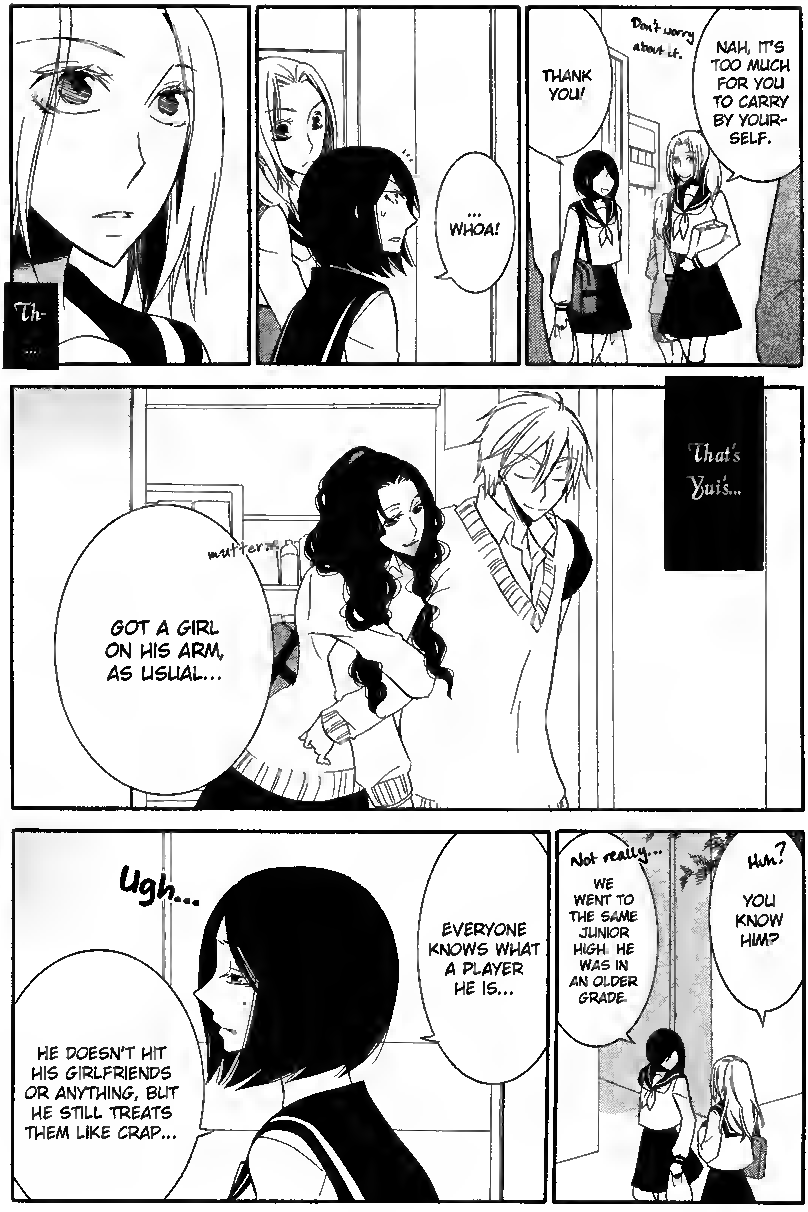
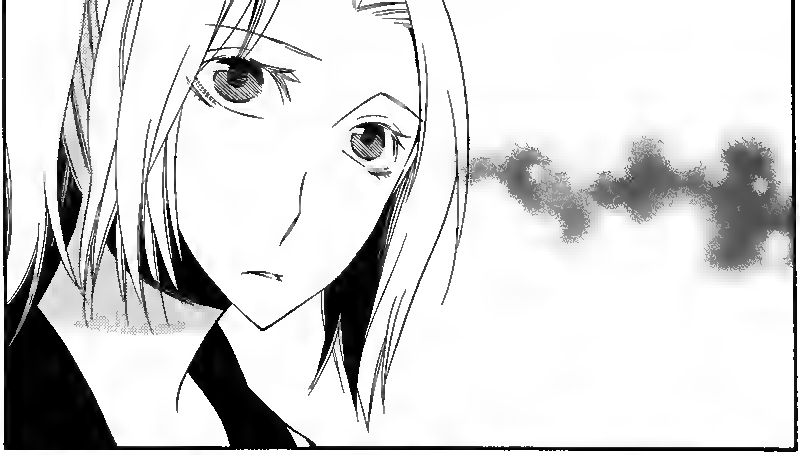

Love&Piece
~needless~
Staff Room
WHAT?
SHE SAID IT WAS A FAMILY MATTER.
YUI STEPPED DOWN AS MANAGER?
I HEARD KUDOU-SAN QUIT BECAUSE OF SOMETHING GOING ON AT HOME.
Girls' Volleyball Team
New Members Welcome

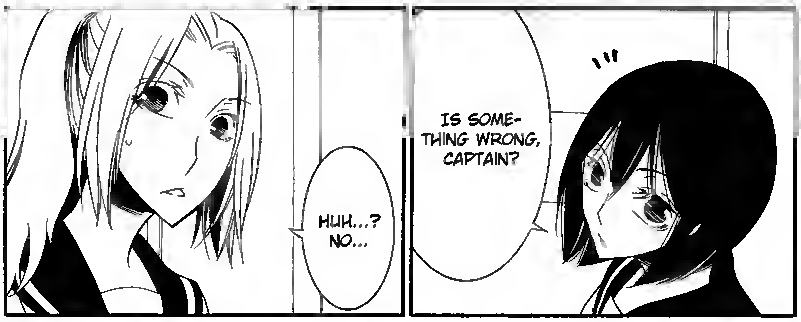
chatter
chatter
AND SHE DIDN'T EVEN SAY A WORD TO US?!
BUT IT'S REALLY 'CAUSE OF A GUY, RIGHT?
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
SHE'S SUCH A LIAR!
.....
New Members Welcome
K-CHAN
WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING IN HERE? PRACTICE'S STARTING!
We're going for a run.
OH-
OKAY!
WHAT?
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT A MANAGER FOR THE TEAM?
MATSU-CHAN?
WELL,

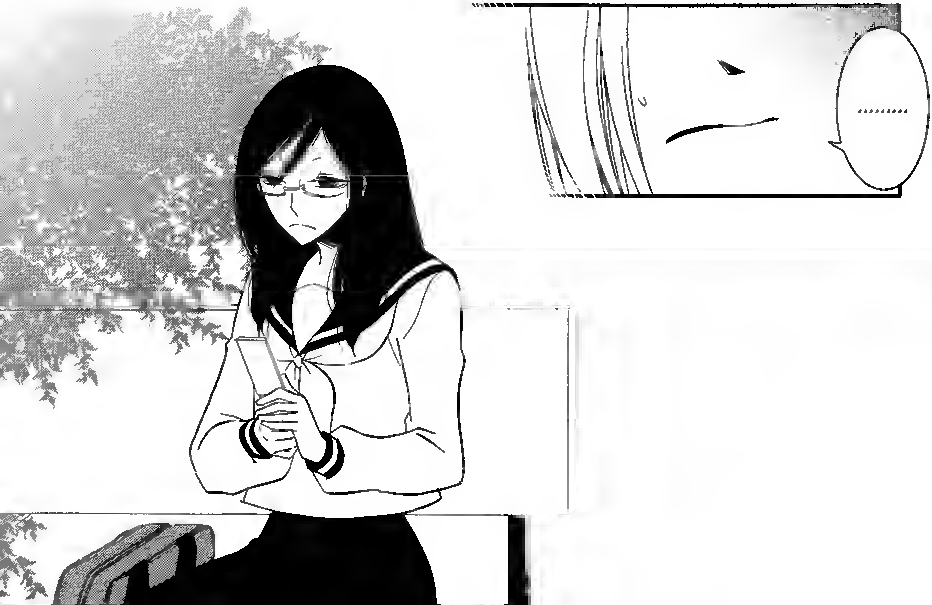
I'LL DO IT.
Wha...?
YOU CAN HAVE SOME FIRST-YEARS HELP OUT TOO.
It will be educational for them.
OH. OKAY...
DO YOU EVEN LIKE ME?
WHY WOULD YOU ASK THAT?
Well,
YOU ACT LIKE YOU JUST WANT SOMEONE TO SLEEP WITH...
ISN'T THAT YOU?
You got a point there.
WANNA DO IT AGAIN?
KNOCK YOURSELF OUT.
Why is it...

that every time his body covers mine, I become even more aware of how empty I am?
THIS FEELS HOLLOW...
...But
I'm too scared to let go of his hand.
SORRY THAT I KEEP DRAGGING YOU ALONG WITH ME.


Th-
...
...WHOA!
THANK YOU!
Don't worry about it.
NAH, IT'S TOO MUCH FOR YOU TO CARRY BY YOURSELF.
That's Yui's...
mutter mutter
GOT A GIRL ON HIS ARM, AS USUAL...
Ugh...
EVERYONE KNOWS WHAT A PLAYER HE IS...
HE DOESN'T HIT HIS GIRLFRIENDS OR ANYTHING, BUT HE STILL TREATS THEM LIKE CRAP...
Not really...
WE WENT TO THE SAME JUNIOR HIGH. HE WAS IN AN OLDER GRADE.
Hm?
YOU KNOW HIM?




!!!
IS SOME-THING WRONG, CAPTAIN?
HUH...? NO...


.....

The person you're
beep
The person you're trying to reach is...
beep
The person you're
beep
The person
beep
The person
beep
The per--
beep
The person you're trying to reach is unable to answer the phone right now
beep
HI. IT'S ME.
YOUR PHONE WAS OFF. WHAT WERE YOU DOING?
Huh?
What does it matter?
rrring...
beep
Hello?
Calling...
TAL
WHAAA..? I CAN'T RIGHT NOW.
Get over here right now!!
WHAT, IS THAT ANOTHER GIRL?
Tsch.
Did we?
OF COURSE IT MATTERS! WE MADE PLANS, REMEMBER?!

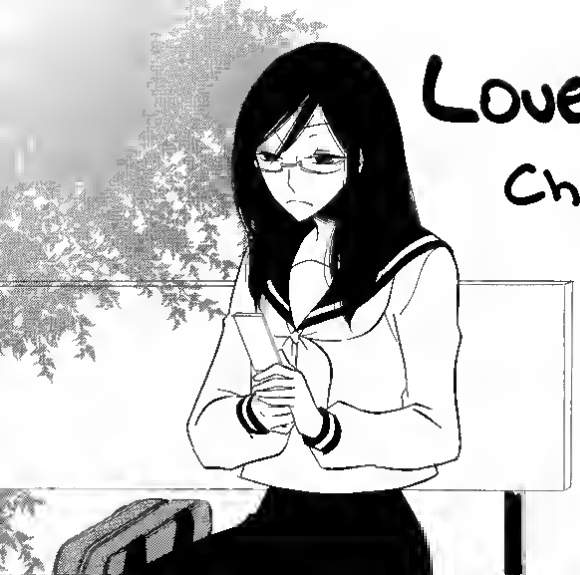
Teehee.
YEAH, A FRIEND.
...IS SOMEONE THERE WITH YOU?
YOU'RE LYING.
Clench...
HEY,
WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS
DID YOU THINK I WOULDN'T FIGURE IT OUT?!
I CAN HEAR HER VOICE!!
YOU HAD YOUR PHONE OFF 'CAUSE YOU WERE HAVING SEX WITH HER, DIDN'T YOU?!

don't you have any friends?
boop...
Friends ...?

I...

don't need any.

Fin



Love & Piece

Chapter 9

Scanned and translated
by Sailor Avalon
Edited by Kyra
QC'd by kat_chan, Anonka,
Sailor Avalon,
and Rosa_Gigantea
Special Thanks: alpha

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YOU'RE KOJIMA-SAN, RIGHT?
PLEASE BREAK THINGS OFF WITH HER.
WHO ARE YOU?
I'M A FRIEND OF YUI'S!
Quit interrupting me...
BUT PLEASE BREAK UP WITH HER!!
WELL..
I KNOW THIS IS COMING OUT OF NOWHERE!
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU—

NO... BUT...
DID YUI SAY SOMETHING ABOUT ME?
Hmm...
DID SHE...
AND YUI'S BEEN BUGGING ME A LOT LATELY, SO I WAS ABOUT TO DUMP HER ANYWAY
HEAR SOME GOSSIP ABOUT ME?
Well,
SHE SEEMS LIKE KIND OF A PAIN
... Hey ...

This girl is pretty hot.
You know, I've never been with a girl who was built like a model...
.....
Um...
ARE YOU LISTENING?
YEAH, I'M LISTENING. BUT I HAVE NO INTENTION OF BREAKING UP WITH HER.
...!
WELL...
IT ALL DEPENDS ON HOW SERIOUS YOU ARE, THOUGH.
!
Serious ...?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
HMM?

WOULD YOU SLEEP WITH ME?
WHAT ...?
IF YOU OFFERED ME YOUR BODY,
I COULD SEE MYSELF DOING YOU THAT FAVOR.
This guy...
Grr...

is a total creep!!
Uwup
DON'T GO GETTING THE WRONG IDEA, OKAY?
You could...hurt me...?
THAT WAS JUST A SUGGESTION.
OH,
YOU HAVE A CHOICE...
DO IT WITH ME ONCE, OR GIVE UP ON YUI!
A choice ...?
Yui's heart ...
or my body?
...That's a no-brainer.

clench...
Of course I choose Yui!!
Whoosh
WHOA, THERE ...
...I won't let this bastard ...
get any closer to Yui!
JUST ONCE. ...YOU PROMISE?
...But there's one thing I know...
Let's
SURE.
.....
Maybe she'll hate me for this.
Maybe what I'm doing is wrong.

I'd do anything for her!!

Let's Go!
mutter...
...HE'S IGNORING MY CALLS AGAIN...
The person you're trying to reach is...
.....
Fin

Love & Piece ch 10

Scanned and translated by: Sailor Avalon
Edited by: alpha
QC'd by: Kat_chan, Anonka, Sailor Avalon, and Rosa_Gigantea

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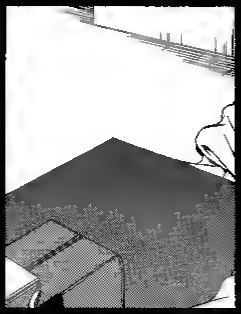
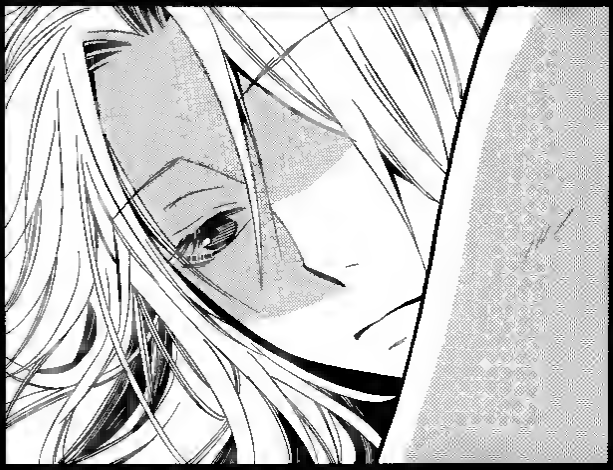
On an intellectual level, I knew what sex was.

There was nobody I wanted to do it with.

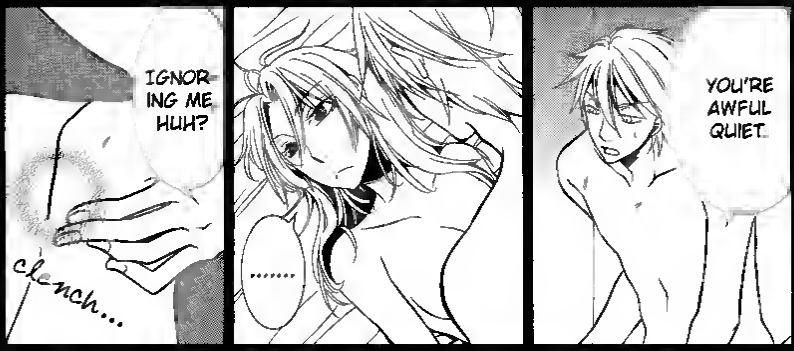


I just had never considered doing it myself.



I thought it would all happen naturally once I fell in love.

I never expected to lose my virginity this way.

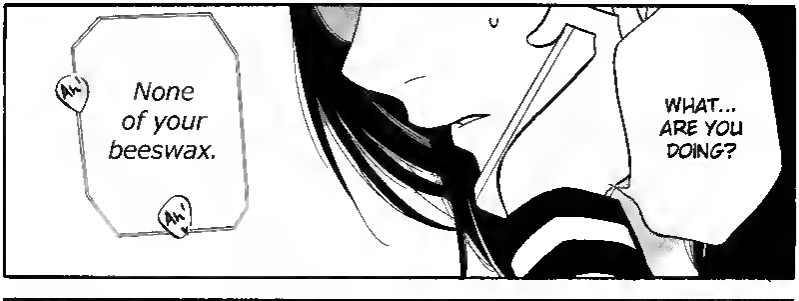


I'm not giving him my "first time."

There's no point in thinking this way. It won't change the past.

.....
tap
The person you're
start...
Good idea!
Want to grab a bite?
boop...
Hello?
!
Oh...
IT WASN'T HER...
Damn it... I feel sick...

HELLO, IT'S ME!
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO MEET ME YESTERDAY! WHY DID YOU BLOW ME OFF?!
Huh?
Ahn!
WAS I?


WHAT... ARE YOU DOING?
None of your beeswax.
Ah!
Ah!

Excuse me?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, NONE OF MY—
I DON'T WANNA SEE YOU ANYMORE.
Ah!
Ah!

Your friend made me promise to leave you alone.
HUH ...?!
What ... does that ...
I WAS SURPRISED YOU HAD ONE, HONESTLY.
Ahn!
Ah!
SOME STUPID BITCH WHO THREW AWAY HER VIRGINITY JUST FOR YOU?
BIRDS OF A FEATHER, AM I RIGHT?
Haha!
WHO...
Oh, guess I never caught her name
Sssshh...

Some tall, skinny girl with a ponytail. Ring any bells?

again...?

HER...

I knew he couldn't save me, but I clung to him all the same.
Kojima was my escape.
Why is she always getting in my way?
...lp me... help me... help me...
To smile with the boy I loved.
I just wanted to be happy.
help help help help help...
Why did she have to take away the only place I had left to go?
Always always always always always always always.....
She was always standing in the light, right smack in the middle of the world I always wanted... sparkling...
Won't anybody help me.....?

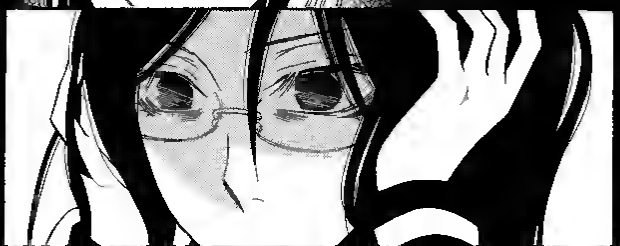
thinking about HER right now?!

GET OUT
GET OUT
GET OUT
GET OUT
GET OUT...

Why am I...

get out get out get out get out get out get out get out...

...Oh!



If she
weren't
around
anymore,
that would
fix things,
wouldn't it?

chirp chirp..
tweet...
Manager Wel
Come give it a
Girls' Volleyball
Now, what should we work on in practice today?
K-chk...
Hmm?
It's tough getting up early every morning!
Sigh...
MAYBE I SHOULD GET SOMEONE TO HELP OUT WITH THE PREP WORK ...
YUI?

YOU CAME BA—
Volleyball Club Calendar
Whoosh...
!
Wha—
A BOX CUTTER?!!
What the?!
Twishoo

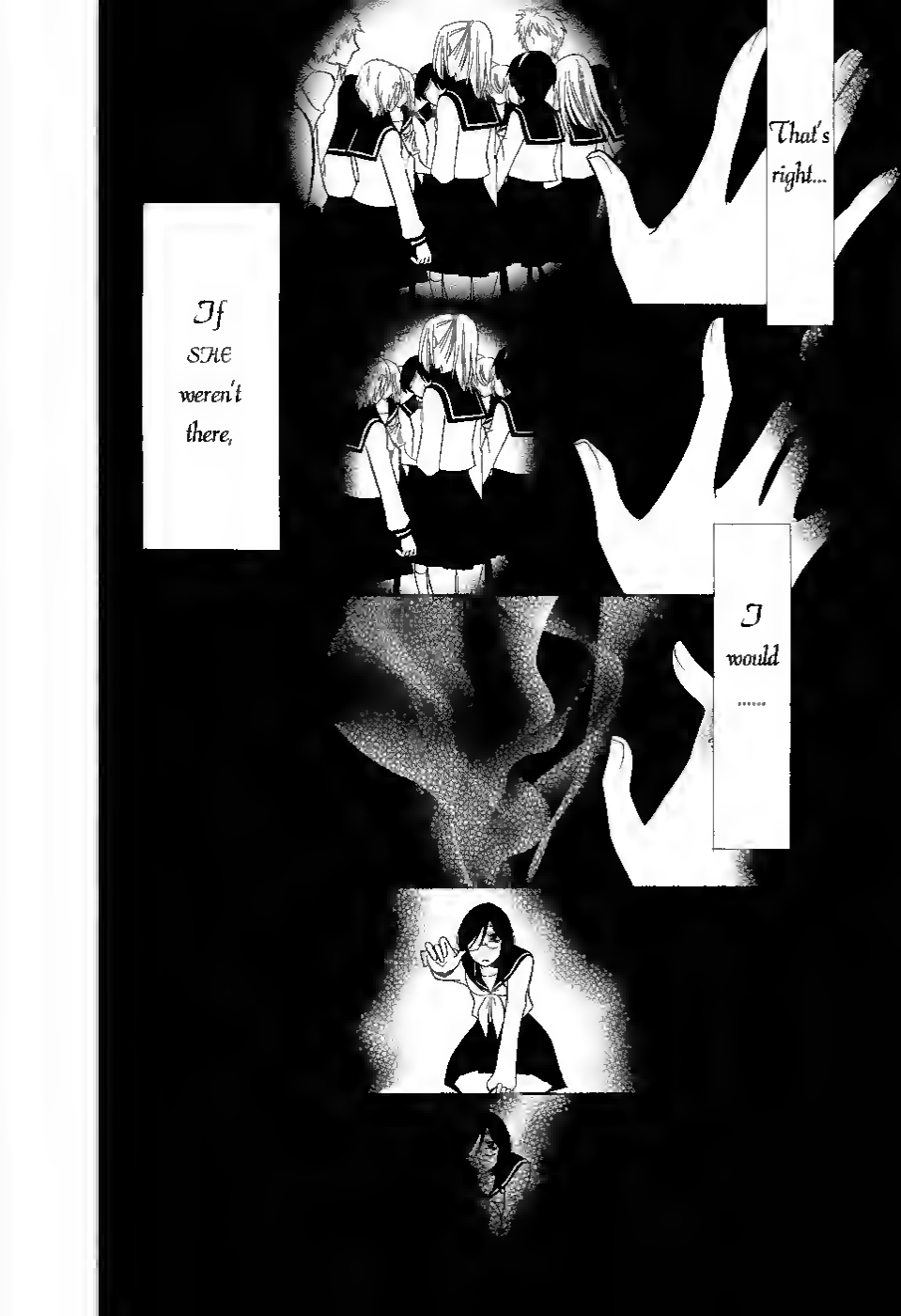
!
Slash
OW ...!
YU—
!!
Her eyes...
shudder
She's not in her right mind!

slide...
Grab...
Wham
CLATTER
NH .....!
IT...
IT'S RED...

!
IT'S... RED?
DID... I... DO... ...this?
HUH ...?
WHAT ...?
IS THIS ...
BLOOD ...?
YUI ...?
You've come to your senses?
gasp ...

DON'T WORRY!! A LITTLE CUT LIKE THIS ISN'T GOING TO KILL ME!!
I'M A MURDERER .....
tremble..
I...
I...
tremble
YUI...
IS THIS ABOUT KUZE, THEN?
NO... I... I DON'T KNOW...
NO... I WAS JUST USING HIM AS AN ESCAPE...
DID YOU REALLY LIKE THAT GUY THAT MUCH?

Disappear....?


That's right...
If SHE weren't there,
I would .....

I'm scared... I'm scared!

Help me... Don't leave me all alone...

Won't someone please help me?

How, how, how, how...?

How can you be so nice about this?

How can you smile like that?

How is it that you've been in my heart all along?

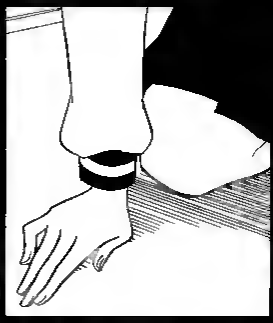
As an object of hatred, and a pillar of light.

You had more of a place there than Kojima or even Kuze-kun.

Is that a contradiction...?

All this time, I've wanted...

I envied you. I was jealous.



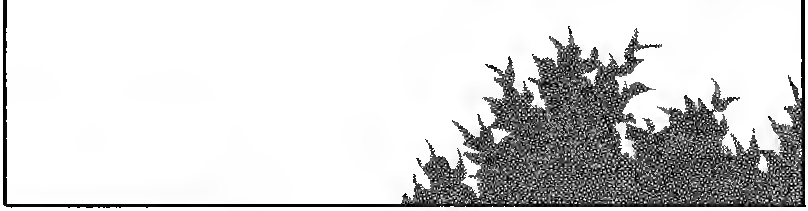
It hurts and it's suffocating and SCARY and I HATED you...

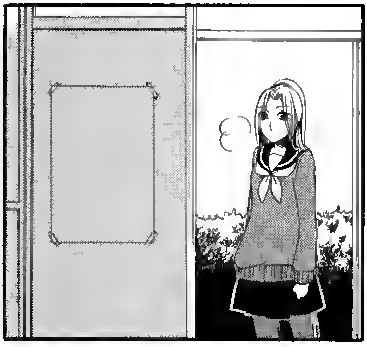
I don't know what to call this feeling.

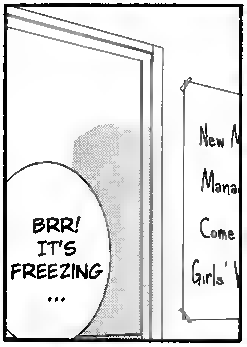
After all I've done and all I am, you're still going to...

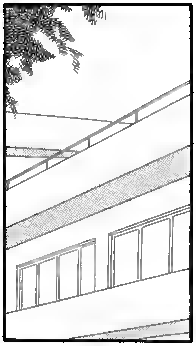
YOU'RE... GOING TO HELP ME?
OF COURSE.

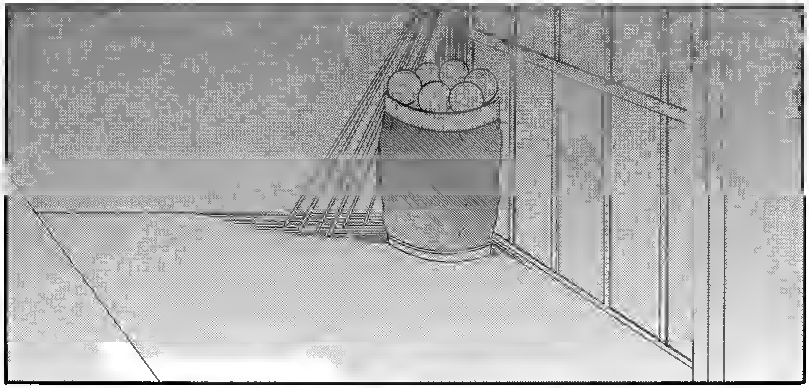
K-chk...
MORNING, MATSU-...
WHA...?
AHHHH!
SOMEONE GET A TEACHER!!
OH...
IT'S OKAY.
OKAY ...
I'LL PROTECT YOU.
SMILE





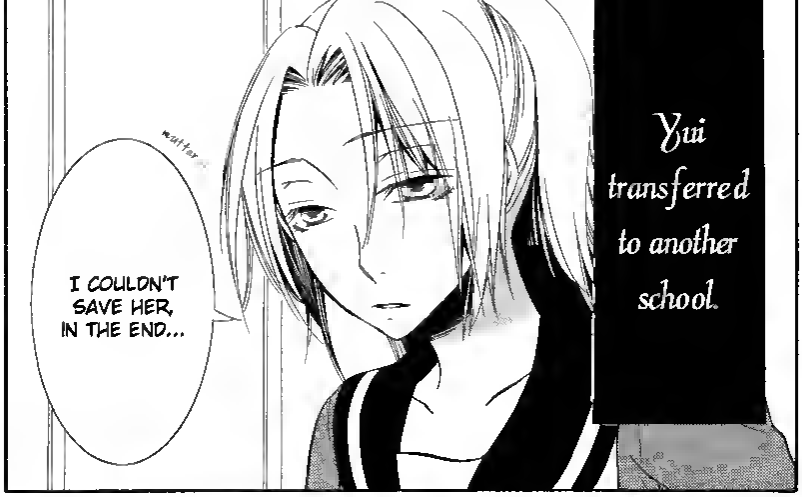


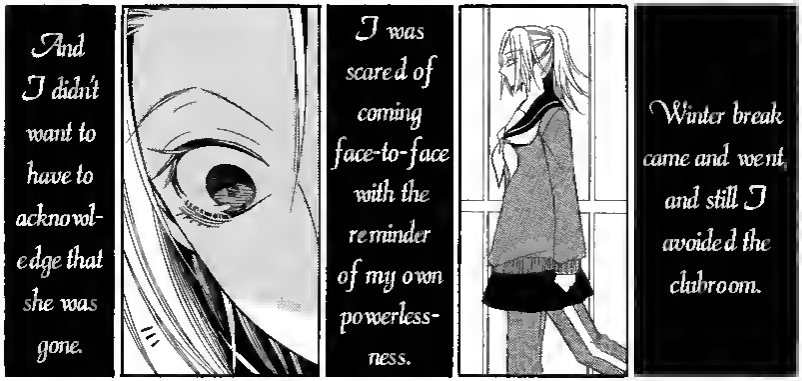




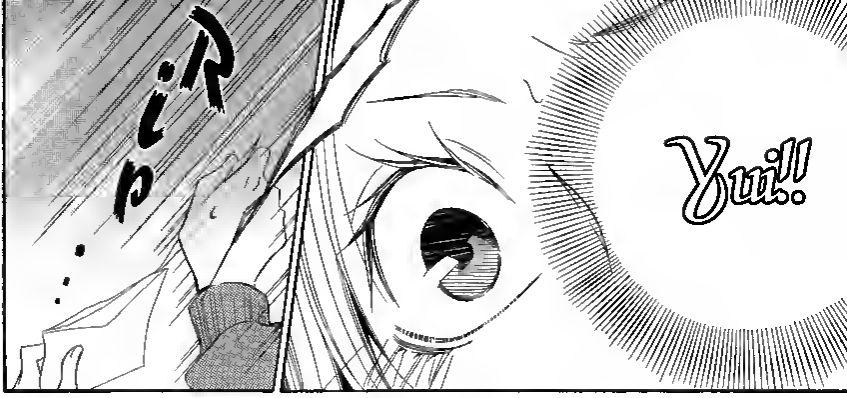
We narrowly managed to avoid taking it to court, though. I insisted it was an accident. That I got clumsy.

With all those witnesses, gossip about the incident spread like wildfire.


I COULDN'T SAVE HER, IN THE END...
Yui transferred to another school.


And I didn't want to have to acknowledge that she was gone.
I was scared of coming face-to-face with the reminder of my own powerlessness.
Winter break came and went, and still I avoided the clubroom.

To Matsumoto Takako-sama
From Kudou Yui
K-chuk
WHAT'S THAT in my locker?



Matsumoto Takako-sama,

Sorry to write you like this.

I know that what I have to tell you should be said in person, but it looks like I'm out of time.

I'll probably be gone by the time you read this letter.

I hated you. It all started with Kuze-kun, but now that I think about it, I was way off base.

After you confronted me about Kuze-kun, I turned to Koyama out of desperation. I didn't think I had any other option.

I think you tried to help me a lot, but I blamed you for all of my unhappiness

I hurt you so many times. Maybe I'm still hurting you, even now. I'm really sorry

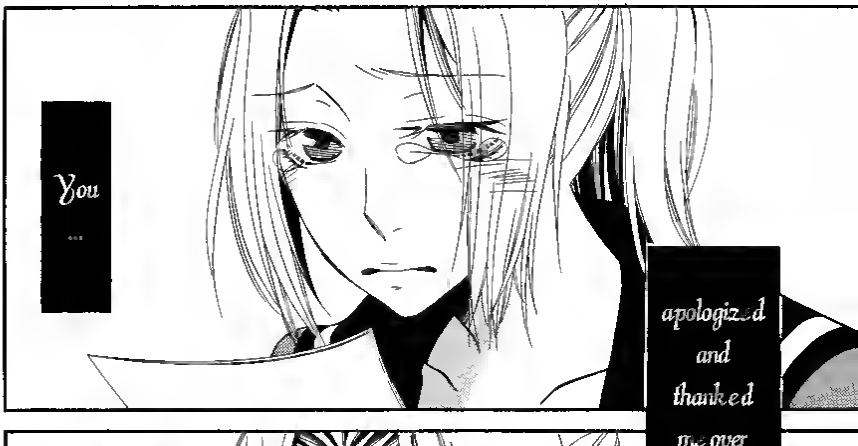
When you said you would protect me, I think you really did save me

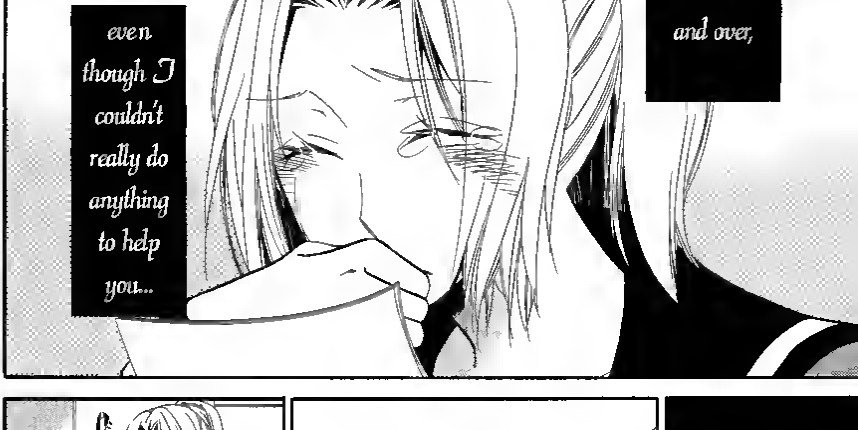
I'm moving far away, but I don't think I'm running away. I'm making a brand new start

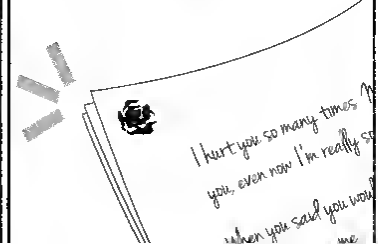
Thanks to your help, I can move forward now

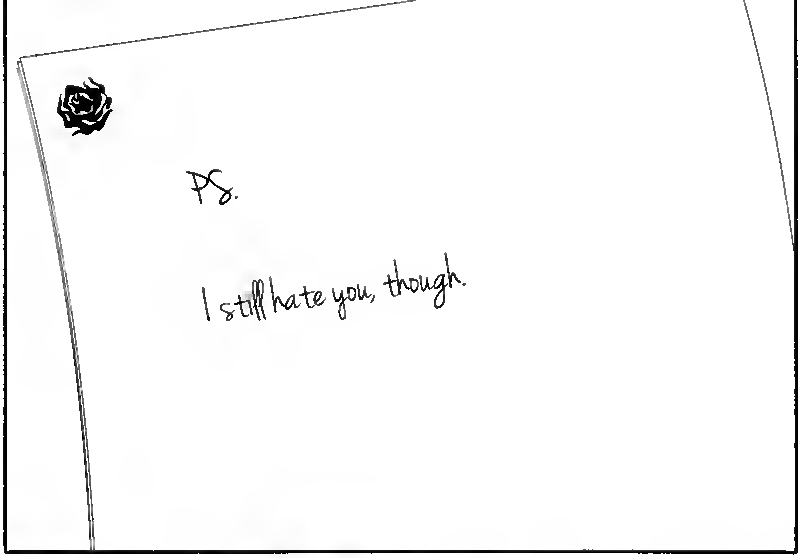
I can't thank you enough for all you've done for me.

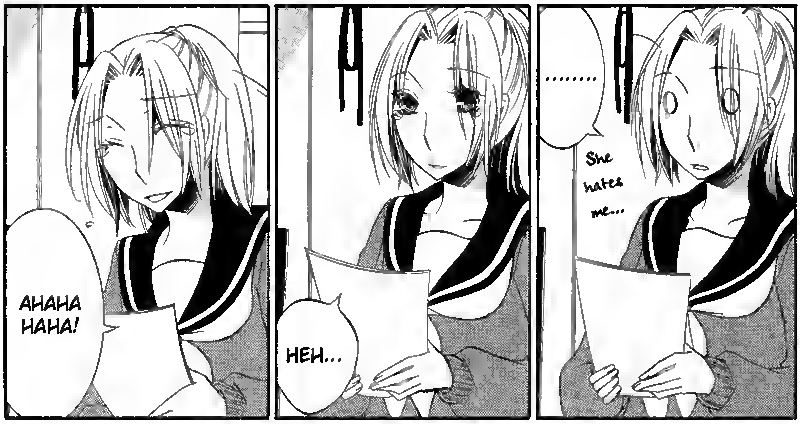
Kudou Yui








PS.
I still hate you, though.


AHAHA HAHA!
HEH...
.....
She hates me...

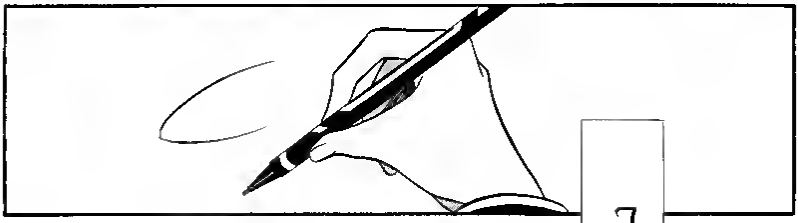
AND I STILL LOVE YOU, YUI...

When we moved, I cut my hair and ditched the glasses.
Nobody knows me here.

OF COURSE IT'S NOT HER...
SIGH...

Files, Sizes A4+B5
I still don't understand what it was I felt, or why it was that she helped me.
I'm starting over from square one, but that doesn't mean I should forget everything that happened.
So I'm going to write it all down, and try to make sense of things.
I'm going to re-examine my thoughts and feelings and actions,
and try to put them all together, like pieces of a puzzle.
When I've finished, I think I'll have the answers.

I've decided that I'm not going to run away anymore.



I know what the title of this story will be...

Love & Piece

Fin

Intermission 2

CLOSED
Cafe Piece
Mm.
THAT'S OKAY.
I'm getting some work done here.
Sorry!
I THINK IT'S GOING TO TAKE ME A LITTLE MORE TIME...
You can go home without me, if you want?

tick
tock
tick
Is Takako done yet?
OH, LOOKS LIKE SHE'LL BE A WHILE.
Huh? The numbers don't match up?
THERE... SENT.
tap...

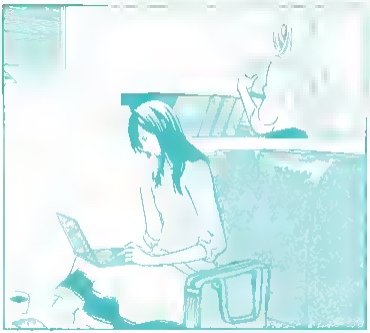
cluck...
reach...
All done!
THERE!
snatch...
WHAT'S UP?
Hm?
Whirl...

She's always just out of reach, even when she feels so close...

Oh!
I'll have some, too.
JUST A SEC!
OKAY.

That distance between us is frustrating, and yet so precious.

Fin.



Love & Piece ch 11

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and Rosa_Gigantea

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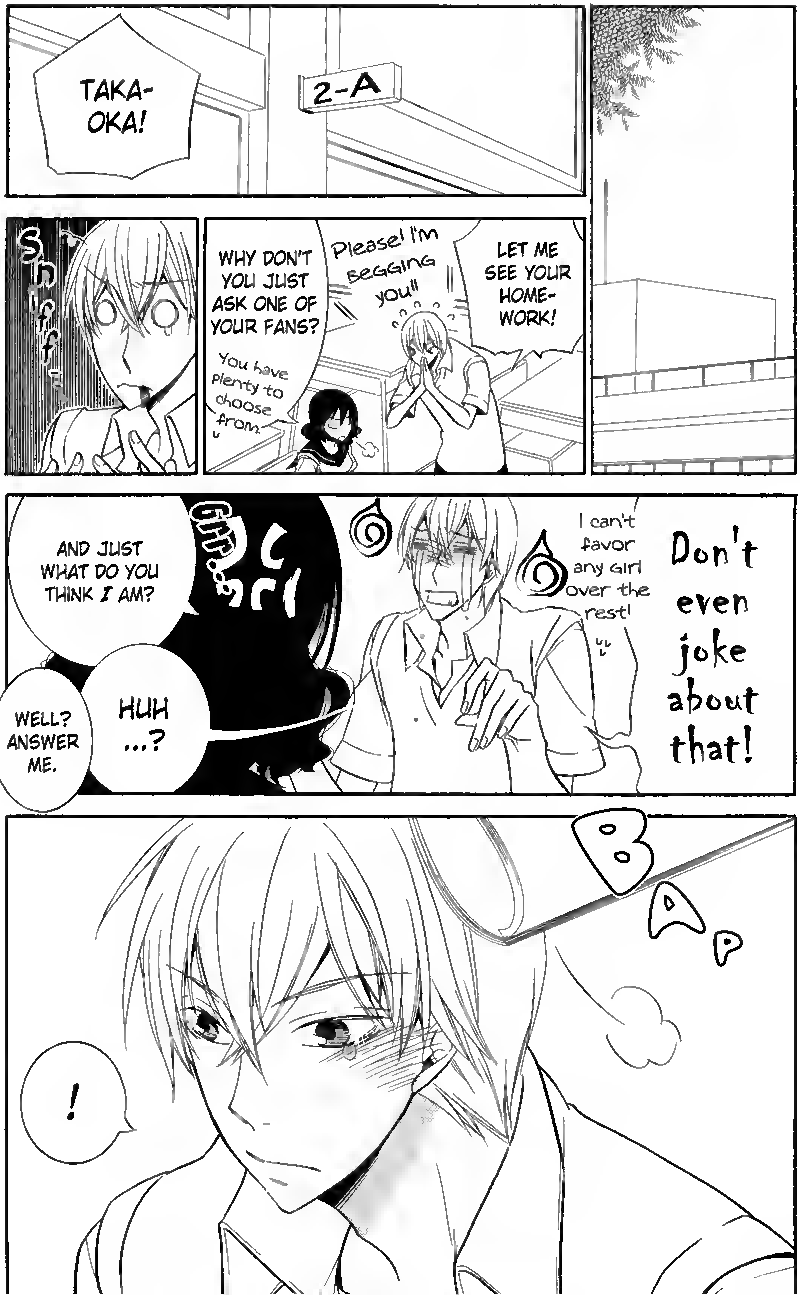
Fragment


TAKA-OKA!
2-A
Sniff...
WHY DON'T YOU JUST ASK ONE OF YOUR FANS?
You have plenty to choose from.
Please! I'm begging you!!
LET ME SEE YOUR HOMEWORK!
AND JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM?
WELL? ANSWER ME.
HUH ...?
I can't favor any girl over the rest!
Don't even joke about that!
BAP
!

KOUSUKE?
...?
MAKE IT QUICK.
Here, use mine
sigh.
!!
beam...
You owe me some ice cream now.
HUNH...
You said it!

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO GO OUT WITH SOMEONE YOU REALLY LIKE?
sparkle
sparkle
WHAT A GIRLY QUESTION...
He asked me to go out to eat with him. What should I think?
HARADA...
DO YOU WANT TO GO OUT WITH HIGUCHI?
HIGU...
HUH? WHA...?! WHY WOULD I... K-K-K-KOUSUKE?!
Whoosh
HE'S INTO HIM, ALL RIGHT.
IT WAS OBVIOUS.
DO YOU HAVE ESP?!
NO...

YOU ASKED ME A WHILE AGO IF I'D EVER GONE OUT WITH A GIRL I REALLY LIKED.
UH-HUH.
DID YOU HAVE HIGUCHI IN MIND THEN, TOO?
...UH-HUH.
AREN'T YOU GOING TO TELL HIM HOW YOU FEEL?
HUH? WHA...?!
T-T-T-TELL HIM?!
Jump!
YOU'RE JUST DATING OTHER GUYS TO TRY AND GET HIGUCHI OFF YOUR MIND, RIGHT? YOU'RE NEVER WITH THEM LONG.
This is you were talking about here. ☺
SERIOUSLY, CAN YOU READ MINDS?!
ENOUGH OF THAT.

...I COULD NEVER TELL KOUSUKE HOW I REALLY FEEL.....
HE'S STRAIGHT.
I WOULDN'T KNOW HOW TO ACT AROUND HIM IF HE FOUND OUT I THINK OF HIM LIKE THAT...
...HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIKED HIM?
A LONG, LONG TIME.
I FIRST REALIZED I LIKED HIM BACK IN FIFTH GRADE...
HUH?
Fifth Grade?!

IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH THAT?!
start
Whoosh
IS THIS GUY YOUR FIRST LOVE?!
?
...THAT EXPLAINS A LOT, ACTUALLY.
How bitter-sweet
wow
.....
...I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IT IS I LIKE ABOUT HIM ANYMORE.
BUT I'M STILL IN LOVE WITH HIM. I CAN'T HELP IT.
AND I KNOW IT WILL NEVER GO ANYWHERE, SO I DATE OTHER GUYS INSTEAD... BUT I JUST CAN'T GET OVER HIM.
...THIS IS KILLING ME...

YOU ARE *SUCH* AN IDIOT.

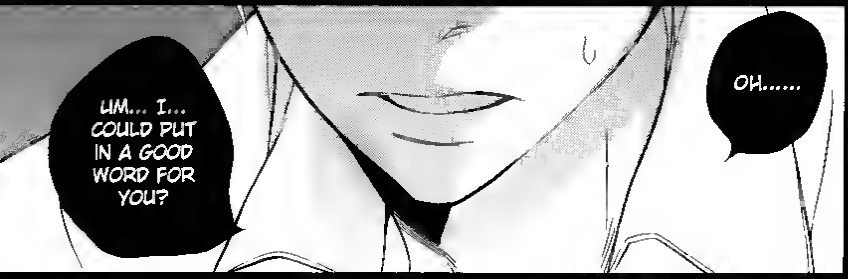
TAKAOKA... DON'T *YOU* GO AND FALL FOR ME, OKAY?

...THAT REMINDS ME, I BOUGHT THAT MANGA YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO READ. WANNA BORROW IT?

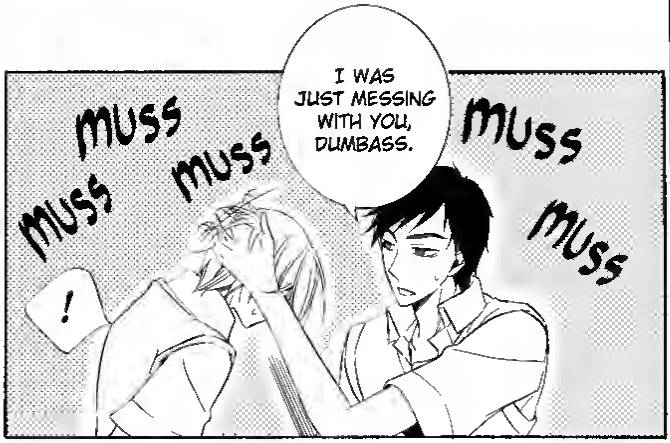
Absolutely
HMMM...
WANT TO COME OVER AND GET IT AFTER SCHOOL TODAY?
YES!
HUH?
ARE YOU GOING OUT WITH HER?
YEAH.
YOU AND TAKAOKA SEEM TO HAVE HIT IT OFF.
THE GIRLS IN CLASS SEEMED TO THINK SO. THEY WERE ALL WORKED UP OVER IT.
WHAT?!
NO WAY!!
OH.
THEY WERE WRONG!!
!

I'M NOT DATING HER, I SWEAR! YOU GOTTA BELIEVE ME...
.....SURE... I BELIEVE YOU.
HEY, YOU'RE REALLY IN MY FACE, MAN.
I can't see the screen
OH!
In your
badump
SORRY.
whoosh
...IT'S COOL.
LV
HP
MP
.....
So
DO YOU HAVE A THING FOR TAKAOKA, KOUSUKE?
Just curious

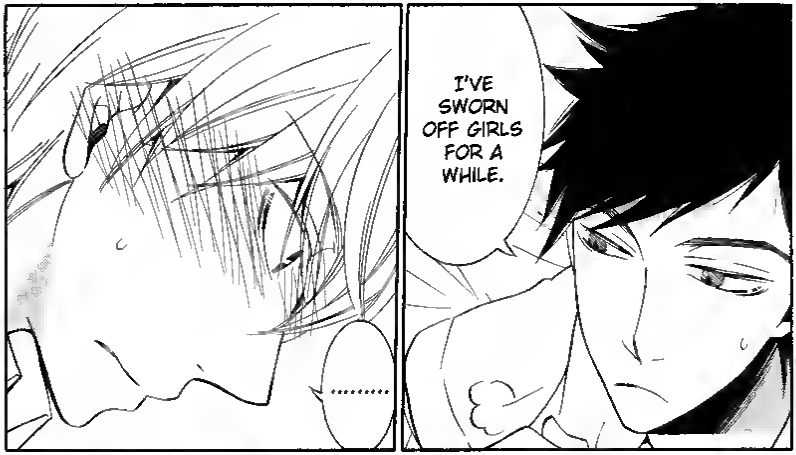
Huh.....?



He likes Takaoka.....?


muss
muss
muss
muss
muss
muss
!
I WAS JUST MESSING WITH YOU, DUMBASS.

flip

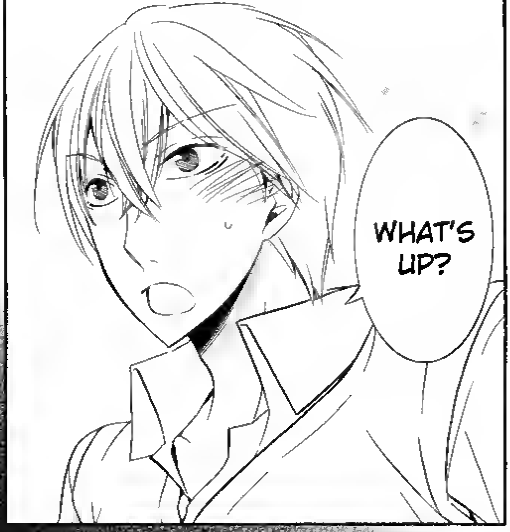

I'VE SWORN OFF GIRLS FOR A WHILE.
.....

Y-YOU HAVE?
☆
Ha ha!

YOU'RE AN IDIOT, ALL RIGHT.
?
.....
AND?
2-A
...THAT'S GOOD NEWS, HUH?
HE REALLY DOESN'T HAVE A CLUE, DOES HE? IDIOT...
That's all of it
HUH?
Kousuke said he's sworn off girls!
HARADA!
GOT A MINUTE?

I know

I'll need to get over him sooner or later.



But I hope

I'll never forget

the sweet agony of this love.

Fin

having trouble sticking to my diet..

Urgh ...

Lately I've been

I lost all that weight last year for nothing!

A scale.

BOW

Thank you for buying Fragments of Love volume 2.

Nice to see you again

Fragments of Love 2 • Afterword Manga

Mayu collects ribbons

Well, anyway...

but most of my real-life friends are the big-sis type so maybe it's their influence.

Part of it is personal preference,

Hey!

Speaking of which, I always make my female characters strong people.

Now, I'm not talking about physical strength here.

I think Hanabi (the brother, not the sister) might just be the girliest character in my manga (Haha)

A touch of BL

I drew "Fragment," the story about Mayu's brother, for a doujinshi two years ago.

They let me put it in this volume.

Well... maybe it's just that I'm the most incompetent one...

How very arrogant.

In this volume, Mayu is really pushing for Mike to have a "normal" romance. I personally think "normal" ("futsuu" in Japanese) is an awfully ambiguous word. It can mean "commonplace," "mundane," "ordinary," "average," or what have you, so it really depends on the person and the context.

When Mayu says "a normal romance," she means "a romance with someone you love." I think that's the ideal. We all want to find happiness with someone we love, regardless of gender.

The opposite of "normal" might be "abnormal," but the opposite of "ordinary" is "extraordinary." In Japanese, that's "futsuu" and "tokubetsu" ("special"), whereas "normal" and "abnormal" are from English.

I know it's not that simple, but still,

I hope all of you out there find happiness with someone special...

I'll try to put more love in the next volume!

Hope you're looking forward to it!

Takemiya Jin

To all of my readers, the designer, Kayatsu-san, my editor, Iida-san, and everyone else who helped make this book possible. Thank you!

Please check out volume 3, too!

Still, we can't help falling in love, anyway.

Reality isn't always so kind, though...

I only see you as a friend, Takemiya... I'm sorry.

Oh. Okay.

Fragments of Love

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